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Central Asia

Strategic Arms Cuts, ABM Treaty Interrelated

LD0208202190 Moscow TASS in English 2003 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—Strategic balance, stability, and the Soviet Union's and the United States' necessary confidence of attaining them can be ensured in a simple and reliable way—through thoroughly verified cuts in strategic offensive arms, Major General Vladimir Kuklev, deputy head of a department of the Soviet Armed Forces' General Staff, told TASS today in view of the continuation of the Geneva talks on strategic arms reduction and on the Anti-Ballistic Missile Defence (ABM) Treaty.

The latest summit meeting of the Soviet and U.S. presidents in Washington was an important stage on the way to the conclusion of fundamental treaties in the field of reducing and limiting armed forces and armaments, Kuklev recalled.

"The joint statement issued in connection with the preparation of a treaty on reducing strategic offensive arms (S.T.A.R.T.) was indicative of resolving the most important differences between the two sides and of the possibility of preparing this treaty for signature before the end of this year," the Soviet General Staff spokesman said.

Kuklev believes that the sides' attitude to the observance of the 1972 ABM Treaty is the key issue, depending on which is whether the S.T.A.R.T. treaty will enter into force and will be implemented.

The Soviet side proceeded and continues to proceed from the assumption that the S.T.A.R.T. treaty can be effective only provided the ABM Treaty is observed in the form in which it was signed in 1972, the general emphasised.

Not to complicate the preparation of the Soviet-American S.T.A.R.T., the Soviet side stated its readiness to agree to sign and ratify the treaty even if no accord on the ABM issue is reached but the sides go on observing it in the form in which it was signed in 1972, Kuklev pointed out.

"This decision by the USSR opens the way for the signing of the S.T.A.R.T. treaty," General Kuklev said.

'Rumors' of European Chemical Arms Depots Denied

LD0208133490 Moscow World Service in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Stanislav Petrov, the USSR Defense Ministry's chief of chemical troops, has refuted rumors spread by Western media that the Soviet Army has depots of chemical weapons in GDR territory and other Warsaw Pact states. There are no grounds for these rumors whatsoever, the general stressed. All Army stocks of chemical weapons, which amount to 40,000 tonnes, are kept exclusively on USSR terrritory, Stanislav Petrov said. Now, in connection with the fact that the agreement between the USSR and the United States on the reduction of chemical weapons by 80 percent has been signed, a draft for their destruction has been created in the USSR. The process of their liquidation will be carried out under wide public and international inspections.

Worldwide Nuclear Test Situation Summarized

PM0108110990 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jul 90 First Edition p 3

[Answer to reader's question by V. Davydikov: "Who Is Carrying Out Nuclear Tests"—first paragraph is reader's question]

[Text] It is a long time since I came across newspaper reports of nuclear tests. Have they been suspended? And what is the situation in other countries?

[Signed] K. Kovalev, Moscow.

It is true that since 1989 silence has reigned at the Northern and Semipalatinsk Soviet nuclear test ranges. There are no tests being carried out. At the same time, the United States is continuing with underground nuclear explosions. Quite recently—25 July—another underground nuclear test was carried out at the American test range in the state of Nevada with the object of simulating the effect of a nuclear explosion in space. This was the fourth American nuclear test this year. It is another example clearly confirming that the United States is not suspending its work in further improving its nuclear potential.

Some other countries are also continuing to carry out nuclear tests. Since January of this year, France has carried out four nuclear tests. There was one explosion in China.

It is worth recalling that the Soviet Union consistently advocates a complete and universal ban on nuclear tests. But this problem must be resolved on an equal footing with the United States, without detriment to either side's security and without detriment to the security of any country in the world. Unilateral disarmament on the part of the Soviet Union, and in particular closing our test ranges without reciprocal steps from the other side, which some people are calling for, will not promote the strengthening of our country's security and stability in the world in any way.

TASS Reports on Gremitskikh's 2 Aug Briefing

Apartheid Boycott Not Violated

LD0208144190 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—A Soviet spokesman denied, at a Moscow briefing today, Western reports of a Soviet violation of the apartheid boycott enforced by the international community.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh quoted the Soyuzgostsirk Circus Agency saying that "Soyuzgostsirk neither sent any circus troupes to South Africa, nor plans to do it in future."

Several months ago, a West German manager approached the agency on behalf of directors of several South African circuses with an offer to make such a tour. However, the offer was turned down.

Asia-Pacific Region Talks

LD0208144390 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The Soviet Union hails recent proposals by several countries of the Asia-Pacific region, aimed at fostering an atmosphere of peace, security and cooperation in the region and expresses readiness to discuss them in a constructive way in order to set up a framework for negotiations in Asia and the Pacific, a Soviet spokesman told a news briefing in Moscow today.

Yuriy Gremitskikh recalled that it was four years since the Soviet Union proposed the Vladvistok programme laying "the foundation for the new Soviet course in Asia and the Pacific." He said the positive changes in the international situation set the stage in the region for more radical steps aimed at improving the regional political climate and fostering large-scale mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

"Current events reaffirm the timely and urgent character of the Vladivostok programme, which was complemented and made concrete by Krasnoyarsk proposals in 1988."

South Korean Talks in Moscow

LD0208151690 Moscow TASS in English 1504 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—Talks began here today with a South Korean economic delegation led by Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh told a briefing here.

A broad spectrum of matters concerning Soviet-South Korean contacts in the economy, trade, science and technology, investments and the establishment of joint ventures are expected to be discussed during the talks which on the Soviet side are being conducted by Yuriy Maslyukov, chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee.

In accordance with the wish of the South Korean guests, they will be given an opportunity to hold business meetings and talks with a number of Soviet farms and departments and to visit industrial enterprises, scientific and cultural institutions.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman voiced hope that the South Korean delegation's visit to the Soviet Union will promote broader economic, scientific, technical and other contacts between the two countries and contribute to strengthening the foundations of peace and good-neighbourliness on the Korean peninsula and in the Asia-Pacific region.

Extradition of Soviet Hijackers

LD0208154790 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—"The way of settling the question about hijackers, confirms the common approaches of our countries to the problem of air terrorism regarded by international law as a serious crime which should not go unpunished," Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh said here today.

He commented on the fact that on July 18 and 27 Finnish and Swedish authorities extradited to the USSR Soviet citizens Dmitriy Semenov and Oleg Kozlov who had hijacked Aeroflot airliners in June.

Gremitskikh said that, extraditing Oleg Kozlov, the Finnish side put forth some conditions: not to hold him criminally responsible for an illegal exit from the USSR.

He emphasised that the two countries have full understanding on this and other questions concerning the extradition of the hijacker.

The spokesman noted that the USSR is now waiting for the extradition of another hijacker, Mikhail Varfolomeyev, who is still in Finland under investigation. It is expected that another hijacker will be handed over by Sweden to the USSR on Friday.

Noting that the Soviet Union repeatedly called for the pooling of international efforts to prevent the hijacking of civilian planes, Gremitskikh said that this position finds understanding in Helsinki and Stockholm.

Japan Peace Treaty Talks

LD0208163690 Moscow TASS in English 1604 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS - Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh informed reporters at today's briefing in Moscow of another meeting held by the permanent working group on a peace treaty between the USSR and Japan.

He said that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and his Japanese counterpart Hisashi Owada headed the delegations.

Gremitskikh noted that during the talks the Japanese side, in response to earlier Soviet arguments, expressed its ideas of historical and legal nature. However, these ideas were consonant with the well-known Japanese position on the so-called territorial question.

At the same time, Gremitskikh added, the Japanese side agreed with several provisions expressed by the Soviet delegation, concerning the conceptual approach to a peace treaty.

The Soviet delegation made some additional proposals to lend more constructive nature to the group's work, Gremitskikh said. The group will continue its deliberations.

Iraqi Withdrawal Urged

LD0208183290 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The Soviet Union today called for "the urgent and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territory," a Soviet spokesman told a news briefing here today.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh read out the Soviet Government's statement regarding the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops.

"The Soviet Union," the statement says, "believes that no contentious issues, no matter how complicated, justify the use of force. Such events totally contradict the interests of Arab states, create new, additional obstacles to the settlement of conflicts in the Middle East and run counter to the positive tendencies of improvement in international life."

Talks began here today with a South Korean economic delegation led by Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, Gremitskikh told the briefing.

A broad spectrum of matters concerning Soviet-South Korean contacts in the economy, trade, science and technology, investments and the establishment of joint ventures are expected to be discussed during the talks which on the Soviet side are being conducted by Yuriy Maslyukov, chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee.

Gremitskikh said the Soviet side "regretted and was concerned" with the events in Trinidad and Tobago where a coup d'etat attempt was made. He said he hoped the democratically elected government of the island state will be able to overcome the difficulties it faced.

The Soviet spokesman denied Western reports that the Soviet circus was planning a South African tour, seen as Soviet violation of the apartheid boycott enforced by the international community.

Gremitskikh quoted the Soyuzgostsirk circus agency saying that "Soyuzgostsirk neither sent any circus troupes to South Africa nor plans to do it in future."

Gremitskikh informed correspondents of a meeting of the permanent working group on a peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan. He said the delegations were headed by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and his Japanese counterpart Hisashi Owada.

Speaking about recent reports by the Western press that Israel's foreign minister was invited to visit the Soviet Union, Gremitskikh said "the reports were inaccurate." "The question is that the two countries' foreign ministers hold traditional meetings during UN sessions. Such a meeting may be held during the coming session."

Valeriy Churkin, adviser to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, spoke at the briefing about the results of the Irkutsk meeting between Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Bush Thanked for Condolences

LD0208185790 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Boris Zverev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman described the U.S. President's letter to the widow of Soviet pilot Anatoliy Grishchenko as a humane gesture. In the letter the U.S. President expressed condolences to Galina Grishchenko on behalf of his wife Barbara and on his own behalf.

Grishchenko became exposed to high doses of radiation in the first days of the Chernobyl accident. He went to the United States for a bone marrow transplant but, unfortunately, it did not save the pilot.

Grishchenko became a true hero not only in the Soviet Union but also in the world, the letter says. He will be remembered forever in the United States, like in his homeland.

Expressing gratitude of the Soviet side to the U.S. President, Yuriy Gremitskikh stressed that sympathy and kind words help overcome the grief which befell many Soviet people after Chernobyl.

FRG's Genscher Interviewed on German Unity

90UF0399A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 31, 1 Aug 90 p 14

[Interview with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FRG minister of foreign affairs, by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent V. Zapevalova in Bonn; date not given: "United Germany Will Have Nothing in Common With the Germany of Tragic Recollections"]

[Text] [Zapevalova] Mr. Minister, recent events show that the process of normalizing relations between the East and West is becoming qualitatively different. We are speaking not simply about the end of the cold war period, which was announced in London by NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, but about the arrangement of constructive and wide-reaching cooperation. How do you assess, on the one hand, the prospects for the development of the situation on your continent and, on the other, the current and future role of the Soviet Union in Europe and the world.

[Genscher] Indeed, the recent Soviet-West German meeting demonstrated that having ended the Cold War, Europe has entered a new phase of its historical development. The continent will no longer be divided, just as Germany will no longer be divided.

Of special significance for us Germans is the breakthrough reached in Stavropol in discussing the foreign aspects of German unity and sovereignty. At the same time we consider it necessary, in conjunction with our partners in the West and the East, to take advantage of the new chances to move toward a unified Europe. For German and European unity comprise essentially a unified whole.

On the broad plane we are now speaking about gradually interweaving the dynamic process of integration of the European Community with the breakthrough in central and East Europe in the direction of political and social pluralism, rule-of-law state government, and a market economy. The future of the unified Europe will be determined to a significant degree by common European structures. They will be foundations for a durable peace and a partnership with cooperation and trust.

During the course of recent meetings in Dublin, London, and Houston the leaders of the Western countries left no doubt that the Soviet Union must be included in the most active way in solving the problem of joint construction of the future Europe. The West correctly sees in the USSR a partner and not a former enemy. Through its political and economic reforms, its rejection of its previous hegemony, and its turn in the direction of a responsible foreign policy which takes into account the interests of others, the Soviet Union has opened wide the door to the new Europe.

The dream can become reality: In the new Europe we will create a common political, economic, and ecological space, a joint law-governed and jointly organized space of safety. In Europe there will be freedom and unity in all of its diversity, pluralism, and creative cooperation with equal rights. This is if we manage to reinforce and continue on our positive path of development.

There is no doubt that we must not underestimate the problems we face on the path to this kind of Europe: economic instability and social upheaval in various regions, and also problems related to the observance of the rights of national and religious minorities. This is why primary attention today should be devoted to the creation of Europewide structures for stability. Stability and security long ago ceased to be purely military concepts; they encompass all spheres of life and all spheres of joint existence.

It is good that with respect to these central issues there is an ever broader consensus among the 35 countries participating in the CSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe], including the United States and Canada. One can hope that the consensus will be reflected in the decisions of the all-European summit meeting scheduled for November of this year in Paris. The first all-European institutions will be created, such as the center for prevention and regulation of conflicts and the CSCE secretariat. A number of ideas will be discussed, and one wishes to believe that the paths to their implementation have been indicated—from Europewide efforts for protection of the environment to strengthening of legal norms, protection of minority rights, the development of a market economy across the entire continent, further development of common security structures, and a greater parliamentary framework for the CSCE process in all of its dimensions.

And we shall speak not only about impulses for the creation of further institutions within the framework of the CSCE but also about opening up access to already existing European institutions such as the European Council. All-European cooperation opens up great opportunities—from transportation, telecommunications, and space research to unification and standardization.

Above all there must be a fundamental change—the Soviet leadership is right in this case—in the nature of relations between the two blocs in the military and political sphere. The NATO summit meeting in London brought considerable progress in this area. One could hardly imagine several months ago that the Warsaw Pact countries would be invited to accredit their permanent representatives at the NATO staff headquarters. There is no doubt that cooperation in questions of security will be given a new impetus because of this.

European stability will be created anew through cooperative means. This will require a number of positive agreements, measures, and processes.

The joint declaration of the countries of the two blocs concerning refraining from applying force in favor of essential cooperation in questions of security, which will be open to all members of the CSCE; important disarmament agreements and measures of confidence in Vienna and, in this connection, the clarity of ideas about the future numbers of armed forces in the united Germany; the beginning of negotiations on tactical nuclear weapons, above all bringing the doctrines and strategies of the two blocs in line with the political differences in Europe—all this contributes to the creation of a qualitatively new stability which will integrate German unification as a factor in the greater stability of Europe as a whole.

As concerns the Soviet Union, through its immense potential and its wealth of gifted people and resources it can actively contribute to the construction of a new Europe. The West is giving complete approval to the fact that the Soviet leaders in their European policy are oriented precisely toward this path. The unified Europe will be a Europe of partners, which is largely in line with Soviet interests.

Thus integrated into European cooperation, the Soviet Union, in my view, will at the same time become a country which on the worldwide level as well will be guided by the need for and the advantages of a globally responsible policy of cooperation. All this is in line with the main goal of the new political thinking in Soviet foreign policy which Mikhail Gorbachev has been defending since he took over the post of general secretary.

I think that the Soviet Union in the process of its consistent changeover to market structures and as a result of internal democratization and pluralism will not only establish new relations with large international economic and financial organizations but will also be in a position to perform—like other states and regional groupings—new political functions. Because of this colossal potential, the Soviet Union of the future can and should become one of the main supports for the new world policy.

[Zapevalova] You are the senior member of the world body of foreign affairs ministers. In the modern political lexicon there is even such a word as "Genscherism" which today is used only in the positive sense. What role can an individual play in history and where are the limits of a politician's influence on the surrounding world?

[Genscher] I would answer your first question in fairly great detail in order to describe the main thing that has for a long time guided me in my political ideas and actions. Immediately after the reforms in the Soviet Union when I saw the new opportunities for European development opening up here, in February 1987 I called for the West to take the statements of General Secretary Gorbachev seriously and to judge him by his works. Many people were initially critical of the concept of "Genscherism" that appeared after that. I am deeply gratified that today a large part of my political ideas and proposals have been embodied in the practice of the West and that "Genscherism" has almost become a mass political movement.

Of course I am very glad that the policy of dialogue between East and West which I have pursued over the decades, a policy of creating a situation of confidence and taking mutual interests into account, is producing results and that the process of the CSCE, in whose formation I have participated from the very beginning, is gradually becoming the basis for all-European security and cooperation, and that within the framework of these processes German reunification is taking place, and I am not only a witness to this but also a participant in its implementation.

A person who has held a political post for so long, to answer your question, could write a whole book. As a liberal politician the main thing for me is still one precept, namely, respect for ethical boundaries which should determine political actions. An indispensable condition for me is the interconnection between politics and the legal norms and rule-of-law state government, a readiness to take others' interests into account and to recognize and respect people with different political ideas, but above all—a rejection of the past policy of force and the duty of pursuing a responsible policy directed toward the future.

[Zapevalova] Gorbachev and Shevardnadze are sometimes accused of contributing to the development of processes in East Europe "not to our benefit" and they say that the West has every reason to claim a triumph. Do you really feel this way?

[Genscher] No! At the recent CPSU Congress Eduard Shevardnadze, a colleague whom I value deeply, convincingly responded to such reproaches. A person who is serious about democracy, rule-of-law state government, self-determination, and rejection of the traditional policy from a position of force can only agree with him.

While I do not subscribe to such reproaches, at the same time I recognize that such disputes are inevitable. In the FRG as well the minister of foreign affairs does not get just praise. We in both the West and the East must get used to the idea that along with the democratization and pluralization of social and political life in the Soviet Union we will continue to meet with criticism. I am optimistic—reason will win out in the end.

The processes taking place in Europe with the participation of all CSCE countries, including the Soviet Union, will lead to a new European structure in which nobody will lose; ultimately there will be only winners.

If Europe progresses along the path of mutual understanding and cooperation, this will not mean the victory of one side over the other; all Europe will triumph

because the current split will be eliminated. This is a joint triumph, a European triumph. I think that the unified Europe that arises will be a gain for the Soviet Union as well. It is my firm conviction that the ties between the unified Germany and the USSR will be even more advantageous than the relations with the two German states.

Anyone who evaluates the processes in central and East Europe exclusively from traditional positions which are oriented toward power politics does not recognize that the modern concept of stability consists in the joint existence of highly developed industrial states that are dependent on one another. Today we should not be speaking about ratios of arms and square kilometers but about the need for all-encompassing stability where a central position is occupied by trust through dialogue and extensive cooperation as well as economic and ecological security.

The Europe of the future arises as a result of modern thinking and cooperative, collective actions. Those who do not wish to get rid of the "image of the ideological enemy" and the obsolete policy of confrontation will be punished by life.

[Zapevalova] It is no secret that the attention of the entire world community, including the Soviet Union, is now focused on the processes in the center of Europe and German unity. Russia and Germany have always had common borders. There have been many tragic but also many happy pages in our history. The Soviet people are sympathetic to the process of reunification. But there are also skeptics and people who fear a large Germany. What do you have to say about this and how can we dispel these fears?

[Genscher] I am filled with impressions from the summit meeting, which in all respects was a turning point in Soviet-German history. The cordial meetings in Stavropol, including with people who remember the Germans as enemies, were very touching events both for the federal chancellor and for all of our delegation.

At the same time, in the face of the tragic pages of our history I can understand the concern of the Soviet people, above all the older generation, when they think about the Germans. I know that the memory of the sufferings caused by the attack by Hitler's Germany on the Soviet Union is still alive in many Soviet families. But still I would like to appeal to the Soviet public to understand that the Germany at the end of the 20th century has nothing in common with the Germany of their tragic recollections. We Germans gratefully recognize that it was this premise that became for the Soviet leadership the basis for the new USSR policy regarding Germany, one that is oriented toward the future.

In this connection I am very moved when I recall my brief meeting with my colleague Eduard Shevardnadze in Brest when together we placed flowers on the grave of his brother who died defending Brest. In these minutes of silent memory I understood that the Soviet leadership was serious about German reunification.

The results of the meetings in Moscow and Stavropol fully confirmed this assessment. The peoples of the Soviet Union can be confident that the reliability and strict observance of the spirit of the agreements that will guide us in fulfilling mutual commitments will confirm the positions of those who are supporting the process of German unity with their good wishes.

In the present phase of history, in which we must be especially responsible, this process has become a catalyst and a motive force for the coming together of Western, central, and East Europe in the direction of a more solid system of integration and cooperation. Responsible politicians are guided by the fact that German reunification not only will not create new aggravating problems in Europe but, on the contrary, will give new, future-directed impetus to the development of the processes of disarmament, cooperation, and cooperative security.

I am expressing my confidence that a sovereign, democratic, and freedom-loving Germany will become a central factor in European stability: It will be not a military power but a state that is open, striving for cooperation, and recognizing its responsibility. Neither military, nor political, nor economic danger for the Soviet Union or our other neighbors will come from the Germans; there will be only moves toward cooperation. This is guaranteed by the 40 years of the peaceful policy of the FRG, by our time-tested Constitution which obligates us to a peaceful role in Europe, and by the peaceful liberation revolution in the GDR.

In conclusion I should like to emphasize that in the history of German-Russian and German-Soviet cooperation there have also been good pages and they must be continued, adding a new dynamic and a new quality. The potential for relations with the reunified Germany will be a little bit more than the sum of the current relations between the USSR and the two German states. Both sides will be able to give more to one another. I think that soon after the restoration of German unity it will be possible to conclude a basic treaty built on the foundations of our relations which have justified themselves and taking into account the new opportunities and possibilities.

Germany and the Soviet Union will thus contribute to the creation of a unified Europe in the diversity of spheres of politics, security, economics, technology, culture, and legal cooperation. We also want extensive contacts among our peoples, especially the younger generations.

[Zapevalova] The federal government is one of the initiators of economic aid to the East, the USSR. But in our view this process must be regarded more broadly. We should also be speaking about overcoming the obstacles which previously stood in the way of extensive cooperation. How do you assess the prospects for further

movement along this path? How could the West contribute to the creation of a really common European market?

[Genscher] Three recent meetings—of the EEC in Dublin, NATO in London, and "the Seven" in Houston—gave a positive answer to this question: The success of political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union simply corresponds to the interests of the West. Therefore the West is prepared to facilitate the extremely difficult transition period through cooperation as partners and friends.

To do this, two kinds of development should now be coordinated circumspectly and perhaps more rapidly: the concept of reforms to which President Gorbachev is inclined and extensive technical and financial aid from the West in the decisive areas of this complex process of modernization.

All this new and unprecedentedly comprehensive cooperation should be carried out under this slogan: effective Western aid for the sake of effective USSR aid to itself. During the course of the dialogue with the Soviet Union we must find a solid joint basis for cooperation.

Here we are speaking not only about enlisting international financial organizations but also about taking full advantage of the decisions of the Bonn economic conference which are oriented toward the future within the framework of the CSCE so that there will appear in Europe a joint economic, technological, ecological, and social space which includes the USSR. It should be accompanied by increasing integration of the Soviet Union into large international economic, trade, and financial organizations. For the future modern Soviet Union, reformed on the basis of the market, cannot be isolated from the economic development of Europe or from the world economy.

Taking into account the scale and complexity of this task, it is understandable that it cannot be carried out all at once and that first one then another capital will present its concepts, proposals, and ideas. What is decisive for me is the growing awareness that the tensions between East and West based on ideological and political factors, which we have overcome, must not be replaced by social and economic tensions. In the interests of the Soviet Union and also other countries of central and East Europe, through division of labor with countries of the West and extensive trade, we must create mutual economic and social bonds which will become a reliable economic foundation for a unified Europe.

We Germans see the support of the reforms in the Soviet Union and its integration into European and global structures as one of our especially important tasks. Hardly anyone is more interested in the stability of our European home with the participation of the USSR than we who live in the heart of Europe. Therefore in the group of Western industrialized countries we will strive to play an active role so that the Western support for your reforms will be quick and effective.

Because of the German economic and currency union we have become the largest trading partner of the Soviet Union. This is the only way our two countries can contribute to the construction of a unified Europe.

The tasks facing us are great, but our opportunities are also greater than ever before. Together we should be able to meet these demands in order to pave the way to the future. Then we will be able to meet the challenges of the historical phase of development on our continent, which is old but still filled with life.

United States & Canada

Reportage on Shevardnadze-Baker Talks in Irkutsk

Treaty Verification Broached

PM0208130990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Aug 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Ministers' Meeting"]

[Text] Irkutsk, 1 Jul—Disarmament, questions of bilateral relations, and regional problems—the attention of USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker was basically focused on this on the first day of their working meeting in the Baykal area.

Certain technical issues were broached, including methods for carrying out verification, the solution of which is essential in order to clear the way for the conclusion of a treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms. Other aspects of disarmament were discussed in a constructive spirit.

The ministers examined the progress of implementing numerous Soviet-American cooperation projects in such spheres as the economy, science, technology, medicine, the peaceful use of space, culture, ecology, and so forth. Areas were marked out for the application of further efforts so as to ensure the most favorable conditions for the maximum realization of the potential of such cooperation.

Taking account of the "distinctive geographical feature" of the meeting, a considerable time was spent on a review of the situation in the Asian-Pacific region whose role is steadily increasing in the world. The search was continued for additional opportunities to promote a settlement in Asian area of conflict—Afghanistan and Cambodia. The situation on the Korean peninsula was discussed. It was noted with satisfaction that even on the most painful issues encouraging signs have recently come to light of a possible rectification of the situation and of an emergence at mutually acceptable accords.

The processes taking place in Europe were examined from the angle of the impressive prospects for overcoming the split in the continent and for the advancement of the all-European process, a new impetus to which will be given by the top-level CSCE meeting at the end of 1990. A breakthrough in the settlement of external aspects of German unification occupies a fitting place in the firm establishment of positive changes in Europe and the world.

E.A. Shevardnadze and J. Baker had a brief outing on Lake Baykal. The protection of the lake's ecosystem also comes within the scope of Soviet-American cooperation.

The talks will be completed 2 August.

Vienna Arms Talks Discussed

LD0208121990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Viktor Levin on USSR-U.S. foreign ministers' talks in Irkutsk on 2 August]

[Text] At the concluding news conference, Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze noted that the place where the meeting was held, the large Asian city of Irkutsk, gave it a focus, and special attention was devoted to the problems of the Asian-Pacific region. As a result of the talks, a high degree of mutual understanding was reached on the basis of the fundamental assertion that in Asia, too, the USSR and the United States do not regard one another as adversaries.

You will agree that this result alone would be worth all the talks, but it is not the only result. Reporting yesterday's talks, I noted that the American journalists were displaying heightened interest in the problem of Afghanistan, conjecturing about what might be the meaning of the arrival of President Najibullah in the USSR and the appointment of a provisional president of Afghanistan. To the reply that President Najibullah had come for a holiday, the American colleagues were skeptical. Today, I think, the skepticism has dispersed. Shevardnadze and Baker have affirmed a steady rapprochement of positions on Afghanistan and expressed hope that soon this would bear practical fruit. As I understood it, it is a question of a mutual desire to promote the earliest intra-Afghan settlement by means of holding free, fair elections taking Afghan traditions into account.

Progress was also affirmed on Cambodia. Here of course, a key role was played by the fact that the United States has taken a realistic position regarding the so-called coalition government.

The timetable of the first day's work turned out to be considerably confused, and the talks took up more time than had originally been set aside for them. Today the ministers could no longer permit themselves any liberties owing to time considerations. James Baker is expected on his first visit to Mongolia, and he must be there by a definite time. But the pressure of time did not affect the working character of the meeting. The ministers sat down at the table not at 1030, like yesterday, but at 0800 and talked for two hours. Incidentally, the talks took more than nine hours in all. The subject of today's talk is the Vienna talks on reduction of conventional forces and armaments. In Vienna the task is to reach agreement by the middle of November, that is, before the convocation of the conference of heads of state and government of the 85 countries of the Helsinki process, but for that it is necessary to solve several more complex problems, first of all the problems of air power and strength of forces in light of the unification of the two German states.

You will remember that on the first day of the talks, problems facing the USSR and the United States in drafting a treaty on reduction of strategic offensive weapons and regional problems were discussed. Much attention was paid to bilateral relations.

At the news conference today, Shevardnadze and Baker summarized the results. In brief, it boils down to mutual satisfaction. The next meeting of the ministers will take place in Moscow where, on 12 September, one can already say with a high degree of certainty there will be the last session of foreign ministers of the six countries discussing foreign political aspects of the union of the two German states. The arrival of the secretary of state in Moscow will, it seems, be used also for detailed bilateral talks.

Arms Treaty 'Key' Summit Issue

LD0208163190 Moscow TASS in English 1556 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The elaboration of a treaty on strategic offensive weapons is, probably, the key issue in the preparation for a new Soviet-U.S. summit, Valeriy Churkin, adviser to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, told a briefing here today.

He was speaking about the main results of the Irkutsk meeting between Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The ministers agreed to set a, so to say, additional level of discussions of the strategic offensive weapons issue, Churkin said. They agreed to specify the issues that are yet to be resolved and propose them for discussion not only to their delegations in Geneva, but also at deputy foreign ministers level.

The next meeting between the ministers, scheduled between September 12-13, is expected to center mainly on economic issues, he said. The sides agreed that the secretary of state, who will arrive in moscow to participate in the "two-plus-four" talks, will be accompanied by the U.S. secretary of commerce and a large group of influential U.S. businessmen. The group and, certainly, the secretary of state are expected to be received by the Soviet president.

Speaking about a new Soviet-U.S. summit, Churkin said it is necessary to concentrate now on preparations for the summit that is expected to be held in the Soviet Union.

As for the Paris summit within the Helsinki process, "It is a separate issue. The sides touched upon it in Irkutsk, and the ministers confirmed the sides' intention to prepare for it thoroughly," Churkin said.

Asked about the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, Churkin said the final meeting between the ministers began to 3:30 Moscow time, and the discussion of the issue was rather general and "came mainly to regret that the sides expressed about the use of force in the Middle East."

The spokesman stated that, unfortunately, the situation in the region is not so promising as the situation in Afghanistan and Cambodia and rapid results can hardly be expected there.

While discussing the situation in the Middle East, "the sides were rather pessimistic and this resulted mainly from the Israeli Government's current position," Churkin said.

'Grievances' on Houston Document

LD0208132990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Good afternoon, listeners. I will start with the conclusion of the working meeting in Irkutsk between the heads of the foreign policy departments of the USSR and the United States, Baker and Shevardnadze. In a conversation with the group of journalists accompanying him on the trip, the Soviet minister said today that, in August, he expects to meet with FRG Foreign Minister Genscher. It will probably take place in the Moscow area.

Turning to the problems hindering the development of economic relations between the USSR and the United States, as well as other countries, Shevardnadze expressed hope that the USSR Supreme Soviet will be able, in the autumn of this year, to finally adopt laws on investments and taxation, which are intended to create conditions for larger-scale cooperation with Western countries.

Shevardnadze also said that, at the meeting with Baker, the Soviets had lodged grievances over the mention of the northern territories issue in the Houston document. In the Soviet Union's view, the Group of Seven should not be dealing with that issue.

These details of the talks were transmitted by our diplomatic correspondent Viktor Levin. Later in Panorama, we'll return to the results of the Baker-Shevardnadze dialogue.

Shevardnadze Summarizes Meetings

LD0208173690 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today in Irkutsk, a working meeting ended between Comrade Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State Baker. A report by our special correspondents:

[B. Kostenko] The results of the long and extremely intense talks which have taken place during these days on the land of Irkutsk were summed up at a short news conference organized for Soviet and foreign journalists.

At the news conference Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, USSR Minister of foreign affairs, said in particular.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] It is essentially the first time that we have so thoroughly and, comprehensively discussed the overall problems of Asia and the Far East, the issue of stability in that region—that extremely vast region—the problem of security in Asia and in the Pacific Region, the elimination of any remaining military confrontation, and the possibilities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation and interaction in that region.

What are these results? A high degree of mutual understanding on the basis of the fundamental statement that in Asia too, the USSR and the United States do not regard each other as adversaries. This is a general statement made at the Washington summit, and naturally it extends to Asia and the Pacific. It determines a fresh view of the region's huge problems, and it is our profound conviction that the rivalry between East and West has been recognized as an outmoded stereotype and is inapplicable to the new situation and the new cirucmstances. [end recording]

[Kostenko] At the meeting with journalists, a number of regional problems were also touched upon including European ones, specifically the issue of settling the external aspects of German unity. As at every meeting of the heads of USSR and U.S. foreign political departments, disarmament problems were discussed in detail, including various aspects of the talks on strategic offensive weapons.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] Here in the Soviet Union, a decision has been adopted to stop the production of rail-based intercontinental ballistic missiles by 1991, and corresponding corrections will be made in our negotiating positions. [end recording]

[Kostenko] In his turn the U.S. secretary of state said that the conversations largely concentrated on the problems of the Asian and Pacific region, and welcome those efforts which have already been undertaken in the direction of strengthening cooperation and mutual understanding in Asia, just as Mr. Shevardnadze and I have managed to do in Europe. At this meeting, James Baker said, we noted once again the progress made in the matter of strengthening Soviet-U.S. cooperation, the potential of which is still far from being used. We touched upon almost the entire complex of Soviet-U.S. relations.

Today the secretary of state left Irkutsk for Ulaanbaatar. At the airport he was seen off by comrade Shevardnadze, Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR, and other officials. [video shows Shevardnadze speaking at the news conference, and Baker being seen off at the airport by Shevardnadze and others]

Prior to his departure for Moscow, the USSR foreign minister gave an interview for the "Vremya" program.

[Unidentified interviewer] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, briefly for the "Vremya" program, in what basic direction was progress made at this Irkutsk meeting? What have you noted?

[Shevardnadze] Essentially, we discussed many questions, many problems; in particular on this occasion we brought our bilateral relations to the forefront and economic problems, too; economic cooperation; technical assistance in the development of our national economy. [We discussed them] in a fairly detailed and thorough manner. So we came to an agreement that during his visit to Moscow—the visit will take place at the beginning of the middle ten days of September within the framework of the two-plus-four mechanism—he will come together with a large group of businessmen, the secretary of commerce, and other prestigious representatives. All these problems will be discussed in a more specific and detailed way. At our level there will be an organized meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich and this group, and this will mark the beginning of what one might call a serious move precisely in this direction, a coming together.

[Interviewer] The meeting was the 16th and a working one, so what kind of purely working results are there?

[Shevardnadze] It is a good thing that we have this practice of a working meeting, without all kinds of measures of protocol. We have not been wasting time on superfluous things. Generally we have been concentrating on the problems under discussion. We also had a very thorough discussion of certain regional problems, especially the Afghan question. I said today our positions are growing closer, there was a very intensive and interesting discussion on Cambodia and on the situation in the Asia-Pacific Region as a whole, and in other regions. Generally speaking, what was said at the summit meeting—to move over from interaction to partnership, the principles of partnership—this is being implemented in practice. Thank you.

[Interviewer] Thank you and good-bye. [video shows interview on airport runway and Shevardnadze and entourage about to board plane]

Moscow Radio on Achievements

LD0208172190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Report by Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, diplomatic correspondent, from the "Panorama" program—live]

[Text] Today in the plane to Moscow, Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze invited a group of Soviet journalists for a talk. Well, I asked him, what do you think is the main achievement of the Irkutsk meeting? We have our meetings very frequently, the minister said. The meeting with the secretary of state in Wyoming, where it was agreed to go from mutual understanding over to cooperation, was particularly significant in conceptual terms. A decision was made to go over the

principles of partnership at the meeting of Presidents Gorbachev and Bush in Washington and Camp David. This is fundamental.

From the words of Comrade Shevardnadze one could gather that the meeting in Irkutsk has begun the stage of practical realization of principles of partnership. Although at the same time at least one agreement has been achieved that could be considered to be an agreement of a conceptual nature. I mean the high level of mutual understanding on the basis of the principled ascertainment that in Asia the USSR and the United States do not see each other as adversaries. This understanding was reached in Irkutsk. You will agree this is one more—and if you take into account the scale, significance and role of the Asian-Pacific Region, in the world—an extremely important acknowledgement of the unacceptability of East-West rivalry in the present situation. Before, the minister said, a dialogue over problems of the Asian- Pacific Region did not work out between us. In Irkutsk much has been achieved in this respect. A high degree of agreement emerged on Cambodia, and interesting trends on the Afghanistan issue have taken shape. We and the United States have some ideas in common, the minister said. By the way, the Afghanistan issue was of heightened interest for the American journalists. Some people rushed to the conclusion that because President Najibullah had gone to the Soviet Union for a holiday he had virtually decided to emigrate. To completely rule out all false interpretations we tried to get an exhaustive reply from Eduard Amvrosiyevich. Najibullah, the minister said, has no intentions of emigrating. As for our relations they remain very kind, reliable, and good. These relations have withstood the test of time.

Najibullah is now doing a tremendous deal and really is reconstructing the country. Eduard Amvrosiyevich stressed that it was the Najibullah government that put forward the idea of holding free elections.

Summing up the discussion of the Asian-Pacific region Shevardnadze said: I think there will be some important ideas on how to reinforce stability and security in that region.

The journalists wanted to find out some details about the declared decision to cease the production of intercontinental ballistic missiles based on railway platforms from 1991. This, said the minister back at the Irkutsk news conference also alters things at the Geneva talks. Well naturally, we hastened to ask him in the aircraft in what way and how this alters things. The minister explained that the decision makes it possible to substantially simplify and reduce the cost of monitoring without prejudice to its quality.

We would probably have been bad journalists if we had not asked whether the date of the next Soviet-U.S. summit had been discussed in Irkutsk. That summit, said Eduard Amvrosiyevich, must produce a specific result. There is an accord that a treaty on strategic offensive arms should be prepared for it. Persistent work is now under way. A working group was recently set up at the deputy foreign minister level to work on the treaty. In Shevardnadze's view that work might end in December or somewhat later. From what he said I got the impression that it's too early as yet to specify the time and name the day, but we should not forget that as early as September Shevardnadze and Baker will be meeting again and more than once—first in Moscow and then in the United States. So, the work is proceeding very intensively and this cannot fail to bring success.

Meetings Considered 'Success'

LD0208141390 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker have concluded their two-day meeting in the Siberian city of Irkutsk. Here's a commentary written by Yuriy Solton.

The two men discussed a wide range of issues—bilateral relations, disarmament problems, regional conflicts. Their work produced no sensation, but it was useful and yielded good results. In principle, all questions relating to the external aspects of German unification were considered. This will make it possible to draft a final document in mid-September, when the foreign ministers of West Germany, the GDR, the USSR, the U.S., Britain, and France gather for another two-plus-four conference in Moscow. This conference is likely to be the last.

Further progress has been reached also in the talks on 50 percent cuts in the two countries' strategic offensive weapons. One more obstacle was removed: Eduard Shevardnadze told newsmen that on 1st January the Soviet Union will stop the production of mobile strategic missiles based on railway platforms, [as heard], and that before that none of such missiles will be placed on alert. The two ministers agreed to send corresponding instructions to their delegations working on a draft treaty in Geneva. The treaty itself is expected to be signed during the next Soviet-American summit, which was also discussed in Irkutsk.

Eduard Shevardnadze and James Baker pointed to the need to do all in human power to prepare an agreement on cuts in conventional forces in Europe by November, when a European summit with the participation of the United States and Canada gathers in Paris. According to their communique the two countries have further narrowed their differences concerning settlements in Afghanistan and Cambodia. They still have some discord as to the ways to reach a truce in Afghanistan and prepare general elections under UN supervision, and in regard to powers to be exercised during the period of transition by President Najibullah and by the coordinating committee to be formed by representatives of the various Afghan political forces. But some progress was

reached. We continue to narrow our differences, said Eduard Shevardnadze, and soon this will yield practical results. And Secretary of State Baker said that in the next few days Soviet and American experts will gather in Washington to discuss details of an agreement on Afghanistan.

The talks were productive also in the field of promoting Soviet- American ties. The two men reviewed the process of implementing the numerous joint ventures in such areas as the economy, science, peaceful use of outer space, culture, and environmental protection. Secretary of State Baker will join the economic negotiations to be held in Moscow in mid-September by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Robert Mosbacher.

In my view, writes Yuriy Solton in conclusion, the meeting in Irkutsk was a success. It reaffirmed mutual desire to engage in closer cooperation in different areas.

Talks Reflect 'New Thinking'

LD0208192190 Moscow TASS in English 1851 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The recent Soviet-American summit in Washington yielded fruit from the viewpoint of solution of not only global problems but regional ones as well. This was particularly characteristic of the talks between the two presidents at Camp David where Mikhail Gorbachev reaffirmed that the Soviet Union would seek further relaxation of tension not only in Europe but also in Asia, making full use of the factor of cooperation and partnership with the United States.

One may have no doubt that the recently-concluded meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Irkutsk will give a new impetus to the development of positive processes in the Asia-Pacific region.

During a joint news conference Shevardnadze said that the Soviet Union and the United States "do not view each other as adversaries any longer" either in Asia or elsewhere in the world.

Baker, for his part, said he saw no obstacles for cooperation between the USSR and USA to be less fruitful in Asia than in Europe.

There is a rather considerable positive potential for such cooperation, he said. As Soviet-American relations improve, there arise more favourable opportunities for a settlement of regional conflicts in various parts of the globe, Baker said.

It must be recalled that only recently it was precisely such conflicts that were the source of serious complications in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. In a confrontation atmosphere that reigned in Soviet-American relations previously, practically any regional conflict automatically led to increased confrontation between East and West.

At present, as shown by the fact that resolution of a number of conflict situations in the world, a different approach, based on renunciation of the view of regional conflicts as an object of rivalry between the two superpowers, is beginning to prevail.

The new thinking led the Soviet Union and the United States to the realisation of the need to bring about an end to these conflicts as soon as possible by political means, not on the battlefield.

It seems that the Shevardnadze-Baker talks were held in Irkutsk precisely from this point of view. On Afghanistan, for example, the positions of the two sides continuously draw closer together, which makes it possible to hope for the attainment of practical results in the near future, the Soviet foreign minister pointed out.

Shevardnadze also described as "optimistic and inspiring hope" the talk on Cambodia. The United States took a realistic stand with regard to the so-called coalition government. There has emerged a basis for cooperation among all progressive Cambodian forces, as well as for a dialogue with China, the countries of Indochina, and ASEAN.

There was also talk on the situation on the Korean peninsula, where reassuring trends towards a dialogue have also appeared.

Relations between India and Pakistan and other regional problems were also touched upon during the Soviet-American dialogue.

During the Irkutsk meeting, there emerged a novel view of big problems of the region, which makes it possible to hope for a better future for Asia and the Far East.

Talks Viewed at News Conference

LD0208220990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] The Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers ended their meeting in Irkutsk today. Our diplomatic correspondent, Viktor Levin, reports:

[Levin] This was the 16th meeting between Eduard Amvorisyevich Shevardnadze and James Baker over the past 18 months. It began, in effect, to imbue with practical substance the principle of partnership arrived at by the Soviet and U.S. presidents during their meeting in Washington. Speaking at a news conference in Irkutsk, this is how Shevardnadze assessed the outcome of the meeting:

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] Here on Russian soil, on Siberian soil, the secretary of state and I have decided to render an account, to inform you of what we have been doing for the last one and a half days—as we have not prepared, this will be very improvized—and what we

managed to discuss and where we ended up. In Irkutsk, Mr. Baker and I spent, as we have just worked out, almost 10 hours at the negotiating table. Irkutsk is an Asian city, and it is no coincidence that we decided to have a very detailed and very thorough discussion of issues connected with the Asian-Pacific region here. The venue of the meeting itself in many ways lends direction to it and made it possible to select one or two main subjects.

For all intents and purposes, it is the first time we have had such a detailed and I would say comprehensive discussion of what I would call the general problems of Asia and the Far East—the issue of stability in this region, of security in the Asia-Pacific region, of removing the military confrontation that still perists, and the possibility of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and interaction in this region.

So what were the results? A high degree of mutual understanding founded on the fundamental acknowledgement that in Asia too, the USSR and the United States do not regard each other as enemies. This is a general acknowledgement that was made in Washington at the summit and it really does extend to the Asian-Pacific region.

This dictates a new attitude toward all the huge problems of the region, and we are profoundly convinced that East-West rivalry has been recognized as an obsolescent stereotype that is inapplicable in the new situation and the new environment.

We had a serious and detailed discussion about Afghanistan, as you expected, and indeed you asked about it every day. I cannot say that we achieved any breakthroughs in this respect, but our common view and the conclusion we reached is that our positions are growing steadily closer and one may hope that this will soon produce real results. As you are aware, we—the Soviet Union and the United States—are guarantors of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan; hence we have a responsibility and a need to interact in this most important area. We marked out a few promising specific avenues and our experts will get to work on these problems in the near future. Our conversation on Cambodia was tinged with optimism and hope. Since the United States has adopted a realistic position with regard to the so-called coalition government and has also made a number of substantial shifts, the basis for interaction among all progressive Cambodian forces has arisen, and also for dialogue with China, the countries of Indochina, the ASEAN, and so forth. I consider that Mr. Baker's trip to these regions was very important. We have hailed the beginning of the U.S. dialogue with Vietnam. This is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, so, in this region also, encouraging trends are discernible. In the very near future it will be possible to reach a definite accord.

An exchange of opinions on the situation on the Korean peninsula has taken place. As you are aware, certain encouraging trends have started to develop there—the North-South dialogue. We now have full mutual understanding regarding the fact that we can assist the development of this very positive process.

I think that we will be able to discuss certain regional problems, regional issues, in particular the issue of the state of affairs in the Middle East, on the Horn of Africa, and certain others after the meeting with you. If there is something very interesting, we will find suitable channels to relay it.

On Europe: We are in Asia, but we talked about Europe. The main subjects were the settlement of external aspects of German unity. We intend to have a document of the Six—that is, of the two-plus-four mechanism—for the 12 September meeting in Moscow.

Further, the transformation of blocs and the institutionalization of the Helsinki process; the pan-European summit; the progress of the Vienna talks which should be concluded in time—we discussed these issues yesterday and this morning.

The question of our economic, scientific, and technical cooperation with the United States loomed large. Regarding our bilateral relations, we agreed on conducting a broadened forum with the participation of the secretary of state, the United States Departments of Commerce, and a group of businessmen in Moscow.

In Moscow a session of the joint intergovernmental trade commission will take place. I hope that the secretary of state will be available to take part in the work of this commission. An accord has been reached that the participants of the forum will meet Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union.

As always, we talked about various aspects of negotiations on strategic offensive weapons. We talked about monitoring [kontrol] and a monitoring system. We have made certain adjustments on these issues, I mean the positions that have been put forward by our delegation. They are changing to a significant degree. They are changing in connection with the fact—I informed the secretary of state about this—that the Soviet Union has decided to cease the production of rail-based ICBM's from 1991. Correspondingly, adjustments in our negotiating position will be made. We talked about chemical weapons and nuclear explosions. In Paris, Mr. Baker (?outlined) certain issues directly connected to monitoring [kontrolem]. We have decided to react to all questions set in written form (?to) save time. As you know, an agreement was reached in Washington concerning a new summit. It is also known that this meeting will take place in Moscow. It was very important for us to agree on the timetable of preparations for this meeting and the plans for setting specific dates and stages for work at the various levels—the levels of ministers, experts, and so on. We drew up a timetable for the meeting, our meeting—I mean the meetings of ministers before the end of this year—and naturally at these meetings all problems relating to Soviet-U.S. relations

and our interaction in various areas will be discussed and considered. Our conversations will continue.

I think that we are satisfied with the results of our talks and there are grounds to express satisfaction. They passed in a (?fruitful), extremely good, and warm atmosphere. I shall let you in on a secret; yesterday we allowed ourselves to take it a little easy and enjoy the sights of Lake Baykal. I hope that you have managed to see it. If not, I strongly recommend that you go and have a look. It is a wonder of nature. I should like to say a sincere thank you to the leaders of the oblast and town and to the inhabitants of Irkutsk for such generous Siberian hospitality and the wonderful conditions for the work of our delegations.

Mr. Baker will confirm that the meetings were indeed surprisingly warm and direct. Yesterday, as well as meeting Soviet citizens, we met a group of young Americans who are familiarizing themselves with Siberia and Lake Baykal, and studying Russian—wonderful, likeable youngsters.

Thank you. [end recording]

[Levin] James Baker then made a brief statement.

I think that what the minister said about successful efforts aimed at the development of cooperation and interaction in changing circumstances, and also our efforts at cooperation in Asia along similar lines to what is happening on the continent of Europe, said the U.S. secretary of state, is of the highest importance. Mr. Shevardnadze and I spent a lot of time discussing Asian problems, in particular regional conflicts in Asia. I am convinced, Baker continued, that in this sense the United States and the USSR have a solid potential of opportunities that could be used to reduce the scale of such conflicts, and that applies not just to Asia, but also the world as a whole.

In addition, Mr. Shevardnadze and I touched on practically all the main problems of arms control, including the possibilities of concluding a treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons and the issues of nuclear tests, open skies, verification measures, the problems of chemical weapons, and so on. We welcome the USSR's decision reported to us by Mr. Shevardnadze, that in 1991 Moscow will end the production of mobile strategic rail-based missiles. This is particularly important because the United States essentially does not have such weapons, said James Baker. The ministers intend to have another tete-a-tete discussion.

The news conference did not last long. The questions—in the circumstances they were being put by the Americans—did not, I think, add anything new. The next meeting between the heads of the foreign policy departments of the USSR and the United States will take place in Moscow at the start of the middle ten days of September.

PRAVDA Gives Overview

PM0308091190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Aug 90 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Results of Soviet-U.S. Meeting in Irkutsk"]

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker held a working meeting in Irkutsk 1-2 August.

It was conceived and took place as an in-depth exchange of opinions aimed, above all, at ascertaining the possibilities of cooperation and interaction in resolving common problems of the Asia and Pacific region and conflict situations at individual points in it which serve as a source of instability and tension.

The analysis of the situation was based on the political statement made at the highest level that the USSR and the United States no longer regard each other as military opponents. The ministers agreed that the new state of Soviet-U.S. relations resulting from this requires a fresh look at the sides' approaches to questions affecting the sphere of security and development in Asia and the Pacific basin. These can no longer be determined by obsolete stereotypes like East-West rivalry but must be viewed in the context of the historical, political, social, cultural, and other factors of a specific region and a specific country. It is only in this way that the real roots of the problems and the right ways to resolve them can be found.

The Soviet Union and the United States see it as their role, together with other countries, to promote the shaping of processes which have, in the long term, a regionwide nature and lead to the assertion of equitable, mutually advantageous relations based on a balance of interests, freedom of choice, and the democratic organization of the life of society in every country.

The two countries' ministers noted with satisfaction the trends that have recently become apparent toward an improvement in the situation in the Asia and Pacific region and toward a certain reduction in military confrontation there and in the military presence on foreign territories. These trends need to be supported and developed. To these ends the sides deemed it expedient to hold consultations on a regular basis on military-political aspects of the situation in Asia. It is intended that the assessments so obtained will be submitted to the United Nations and other international organizations and institutions by the foreign ministers of the USSR and the United States for examination and to determine the need for appropriate coordinated actions.

The two countries' cooperation will be aimed only at promoting the stability, cooperation, and well-being of all states in the Asia and Pacific region. The USSR and the United States intend to cooperate closely in these efforts with China, Japan, Canada, India, Pakistan, the ASEAN countries, and individual states and regional organizations.

As guarantors of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan, the Soviet and U.S. sides once again emphasized their desire to promote a speediest internal Afghan settlement by means of holding free and fair elections with due regard for Afghan traditions.

Such elections must be held under UN auspices and with very active participation by the United Nations. The ministers stated that their countries adhere to identical or compatible views on many other substantial elements of an internal Afghan settlement. They recognize the importance of establishing a transitional period and the expediency of forming a representative coordinating organ which could take on the organization of preparations for the elections and tackle certain other questions relating to the transitional period. Certain forces could be transferred to this organ to ensure public order and to ensure the proper conditions for holding elections.

The ministers confirmed their intention to continue close consultations with all sides involved in the internal Afghan conflict and to help find compromise solutions to the outstanding questions connected with a settlement and the conditions for holding elections. They highly evaluated and supported the UN secretary general's efforts in this direction and stated their countries' readiness to give him all necessary assistance.

In the ministers' opinion, the USSR and the United States have not exhausted their potential in the matter of achieving an internal Afghan settlement. They voiced the hope that their countries will be able to achieve greater mutual understanding and a higher level of constructive cooperation in this matter of exceptional importance to peace and security.

At the talks in Irkutsk, great attention was devoted to the problem of a Cambodian settlement. The Soviet side declared that the recent change in the U.S. position, Washington's decision to abandon support for UN representation for the "coalition government" of Cambodia, and the call for the speediest convocation of the Supreme National Council create a new situation from the viewpoint of the possibility of achieving a realistic settlement of the Cambodian problem. It may now be said that there exists a basis for a settlement around which all Cambodia's progressive forces can rally.

The active and constructive work of the UN Security Council "five" and the dialogue among the USSR, the United States, China, the ASEAN countries, and the states of Indochina provide hope of the possibility of a decisive breakthrough in the matter of a Cambodian settlement.

The Soviet Union confirmed its readiness to establish direct contacts with N. Sihanouk if the U.S. representatives establish analogous contacts with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. The U.S. side promised to examine this idea positively. An understanding was reached that the "Khmer Rouge" must participate in future elections if they recognize the very principle of free elections and their results and renounce violence against the civilian population.

The question of the possible ending of weapons deliveries to all the warring sides in Cambodia by all countries was also discussed. The situation on the Korean peninsula, where, in the ministers' opinion, positive changes have become apparent, and also the situation in relations between India and Pakistan, were discussed in a constructive, businesslike manner. Certain other regional questions were also examined: the Near East, Southern Africa, the situation on the Horn of Africa, and Central America.

An examination of other traditional items on the Soviet-U.S. political dialogue agenda was continued at the ministers' meeting.

The U.S. side welcomed the reaching of accords between USSR President M.S. Gorbachev and FRG Federal Chancellor H. Kohl which fully accord with the positions of the states involved in the "two-plus-four" mechanism.

Developing the mutual understanding attained at the Paris session of the six countries' foreign ministers, E.A. Shevardnadze and J. Baker exchanged opinions on external aspects of the building of German unity. They concluded that good preconditions now exist for completing, in the main, the elaboration of a document on a definitive settlement in international law with Germany in time for the meeting of "the Six" in Moscow scheduled for 12 September.

Also noted was the importance of thorough preparations for the proposed summit meeting of the CSCE participant countries in Paris, whose holding, as is known, is linked with the signing of an agreement on conventional armed forces and arms in Europe. The ministers advocated the speediest commencement of practical work by Warsaw Pact and NATO member states to draw up a joint declaration on establishing relations of partnership and mutual understanding between them.

The USSR foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state discussed a number of problems of arms reduction and limitation. In particular, after examining certain questions relating to the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Arms, the sides voiced their intention to give their delegations additional instructions aimed at accelerating work on its text.

During a discussion of questions relating to the Vienna talks, the ministers devoted attention to the problem of aviation. Various options for the approach to this problem at the first stage of the talks were examined. It was agreed to discuss these options with the participation of allies on both sides.

Proceeding from the bilateral agreement on ending the production of chemical weapons and destroying them, the sides discussed in a constructive spirit questions of its implementation and also of Soviet-U.S. cooperation

in the course of completing work on a multilateral convention on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons.

The ministers expressed the intention to promote the speediest ratification of the protocols, signed at the highest level, to the 1974 and 1976 treaties limiting nuclear tests. There was also an exchange of opinions on the problems of "open skies," conversion, and others.

During a discussion of bilateral and transnational questions E.A. Shevardnadze and J. Baker advocated continuing the sides' efforts to further improve the treaty-legal infrastructure of Soviet-U.S. relations and to seek new spheres and areas of mutually advantageous cooperation. The U.S. secretary of state was handed a memorandum noting promising spheres for bilateral cooperation, where, in the Soviet side's opinion, specific results and accords can be reached in the very near future.

An accord was reached that at the time of J. Baker's visit to Moscow in September this year he will be accompanied by U.S. Commerce Secretary R. Mosbacher and a group of leading representatives of U.S. business circles. The next session of the Soviet-U.S. Trade and Economic Commission, which will examine the state of affairs in the sphere of consultative-technical cooperation between the USSR and the United States, will also coincide with that visit. The Soviet side evaluated positively the U.S. Administration's recent proposals in this sphere and noted their large-scale nature.

Joint interest was expressed in completing work on a number of accords in the trade and economic sphere, including agreements on mutual encouragement and protection of capital investments and on avoidance of double taxation. The foreign minister and the secretary of state touched on certain questions of human rights and humanitarian problems.

Proceeding from the accord reached at the talks in Washington on a top-level meeting in the Soviet Union, the ministers agreed on a schedule for their contacts geared to preparations for that meeting and on the organization of work at corresponding talks, as well as between various groups of the sides' experts.

The talks were of a constructive and frank nature and were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

U.S. Secretary of State Baker Visits Mongolia

Arrives in Ulaanbaatar 2 Aug

LD0208090290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, arrived in Ulaanbaatar today on his official friendly visit. This is the first visit of a head of the U.S. foreign political department in Mongolian history. Mongolian press is expressing certainty that the forthcoming talks will assist in developing relations between the two countries and in strengthening mutual understanding between Mongolians and Americans.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD0208132390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] James Baker, secretary of state of the United States of America, arrived in Ulaanbaatar today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the government of the Mongolian People's Republic.

At the capital's airport the secretary of state was met by Mongolian Foreign Minister Gombosuren and other officials.

During the four-day visit, Baker will meet Mongolia's highest leaders of state and government and the chairman of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party. He will hold talks with the country's foreign minister and will also meet the leaders of new parties.

Gives News Conference 3 Aug

LD0308080790 Moscow TASS in English 0719 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Kim Boldokhonov and Dugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar August 3 TASS—"An important step was taken towards development and cooperation between the two countries as a result of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's first visit to Mongolia," Mongolian Foreign Minister Tserenpiliyn Gombursen told a news conference for local and foreign journalists here today.

Upon the completion of Baker's two-day visit, the sides signed a consular convention, an agreement on actions by the U.S. Peace Corps in Mongolia, initialled a trade agreement and exchanged notes on the procedure for issuing visas.

The development of mutually beneficial and equal relations with all countries irrespective of their socio-political system is the expression of the new foreign policy pursued by the People's Republic of Mongolia, Gombosuren said. This is demonstrated by Baker's official visit to Mongolia, which ends today.

In his speech, Baker positively assessed democratisation in Mongolian society and measures to overhaul the economy and expressed the United States' aspiration to help deepen these changes.

Departs Mongolia for Moscow

LD0308090990 Moscow TASS in English 0905 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar August 3 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has completed his visit to Mongolia and set off for Moscow.

Baker will meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, after which he will leave for Washington, according to a report by the U.S. State Department.

U.S. President Decries Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait

LD0208195690 Moscow TASS in English 1942 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko]

[Text] Washington August 2 TASS—"The United States strongly condemns the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait," U.S. President George Bush told correspondents today.

"We call for the immediate withdrawal of all the Iraqi forces. There is no place for this sort of naked aggression in today's world," Bush said.

The President said he had taken "a number of steps to indicate the deep concern" over the events that have taken place. He has also signed an executive order freezing Iraqi assets in the United States.

He has also signed an executive order freezing Kuwaiti assets "to ensure that those assets are not interfered with by the illegitimate authority that is now occupying Kuwait." He called upon other governments to take similar action.

"The Department of State has been in touch with governments around the world urging that they, too, condemn the Iraqi aggression and consult to determine what measures should be taken to bring an end to this totally unjustified act. It is important that the international community act together to ensure that Iraqi forces depart Kuwait immediately," Bush said.

The President said he remained committed to take whatever steps are necessary to defend the United States' long-standing vital interests in the Gulf. He said he is holding meetings with his advisers "to consider all possible option available to us."

Asked if he contemplated intervention as one of his opinions, The President said: "We're not discussing intervention. I would not discuss any military options, even if we'd agreed upon them." He said he and his advisers were discussing breaking diplomatic relations with Iraq.

"Obviously some of you might be interested, this matter has been discussed at very high level between Secretary of State Baker and Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union Shevardnadze, and so far I've been pleased with the Soviet reaction," Bush said.

Reports have been received that 12 U.S. Navy ships, led by the Independence aircraft carrier, are heading from the Indian Ocean to the Gulf.

Joint Statement Planned

LD0208213290 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] The American secretary of state, James Baker, intends to stop over in Moscow on Friday on his way from Ulaanbaatar to Washington. He shortened by 48 hours his first visit to Mongolia because of the Iraqi troops' invasion of Kuwait.

A State Department spokesman has said Mr. Baker and the foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, are going to make a joint statement on the issue.

Northeast Asia

Japan's Owada Discusses Relations While on Visit

Shevardnadze To Visit Japan

OW0208150790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1439 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 2 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Thursday he will visit Japan for three days starting September 5.

Shevardnadze mentioned the date during a meeting with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, Japanese officials said.

Shevardnadze is expected to help set the stage for the historic visit to Japan by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev next spring.

Meeting With Shevardnadze

OW0208163890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1609 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 2 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Thursday he will visit Japan for three days starting September 5.

Shevardnadze mentioned the date during a 50-minute meeting with Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, Japanese officials said.

"Relations between the Soviet Union and Japan have made fair progress," Shevardnadze said, adding that Moscow regards President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan as very important in improving relations between the two countries.

Owada conveyed Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's verbal message that Japan hopes to establish broad bilateral relationship, including economic cooperation as soon as possible.

Owada, who headed a Japanese delegation to the two-day high-level consultations between the two countries

in Moscow from Monday, said Japan hopes that Shevardnadze's visit to Japan would trigger an expansion of bilateral relations and progress toward a resolution of the bilateral territorial dispute.

Shevardnadze said the high-level consultations were useful and that it is important that bilateral relations continue to make progress.

"I'd like to think that there is enough possibility to make President Gorbachev's visit to Japan a real change in Soviet-Japan relations. Therefore, eagerness and wisdom of both countries are necessary," he said.

Shevardnadze indicated that he will make new proposals on security and disarmament in the Asia-Pacific region, saying "when I visit Japan I hope to discuss problems in the Asia-Pacific region."

Shevardnadze is expected to help set the stage for the historic visit to Japan by Gorbachev next spring.

Soviet Side Praises Dialogue

LD0208190990 Moscow TASS in English 1900 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today received visiting Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada in connection with regular political consultations between the Soviet and Japanese Foreign Ministries at the level of deputy ministers and a regular session of the permanent working group on a peace treaty between the USSR and Japan.

During the meeting, the Soviet side praised the exchange of opinions and the present stage in the development of the Soviet-Japanese political dialogue.

A hope was expressed at the meeting that the improvement in the dialogue would enable the two countries to overcome a lag in the development of relations and to lend them dynamism conforming to the pace of positive changes in the world.

The Soviet side expressed desirablity to actively use the time before an official visit by the Soviet foreign minister to Japan (to begin early in September) for efficient preparations to complete the visit with specific understandings.

Owada said that Tokyo attaches much importance to the forthcoming talks with the Soviet foreign minister as a significant stage of preparations for a visit by President Mikhail Gorbachev to Japan in 1991.

He pointed to the intention of the Japanese side to expand Soviet-Japanese relations.

Owada conveyed an oral message from Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to Shevardnadze.

He also expressed readiness of the Japanese side, on behalf of the minister, to give utmost assistance to the Soviet Union in overcoming the aftermaths of the Chernobyl disaster.

Shevardnadze expressed profound gratitude for this humane move.

The two sides also discussed international issues.

Meets Rogachev on Korean Issue

OW0308024090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0126 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 3 KYODO—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said Thursday that Japan and the Soviet Union have agreed to have regular consultations on the Korean peninsula issue.

The agreement was reached during three days of talks between Rogachev and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada in Moscow.

Rogachev, speaking to Japanese reporters, called for concerted action to bring about detente, peace, and stability on the Korean peninsula, saying, "Japan, the Soviet Union, the United States, China, and other Korean-related countries should exert their maximum efforts to promote dialogue between Seoul and Pyongyang."

He also said the Soviet Union will hold consultations on the Korean issue with the United States, China, and other nations.

Observers said Moscow's positive attitude toward consultations with concerned countries indicates that the Soviet Union is willing to exert its influence on the Korean peninsula issue following the unprecedented summit meeting between President Mikhail Gorbachev and South Korean President No Tae-u in June and the normalization of Moscow-Beijing ties.

During the talks between Rogachev and Owada, the Soviet Union urged Japan to improve its relations with North Korea in order to prevent Pyongyang from becoming isolated.

Owada expressed Tokyo's willingness to improve its ties with North Korea in the talks.

On Soviet-Japan relations, Rogachev said Japan should not place so much emphasis on the territorial issue in its efforts to improve overall relations between the two countries.

Treaty Delegations Meet

LD0208141990 Moscow TASS in English 1002 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minster Igor Rogachev and his Japanese counterpart Hisahi Owada presided over Wednesday's meeting of

the permanent working group on a peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan in Moscow.

The sides discussed various issues linked with the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries.

Responding to previous Soviet arguments, the Japanse side presented its own historical and legal considerations in line with Japan's position on the so-called territorial problem.

Simultaneously, the Japanese side agreed in principle with several Soviet provisions on the approach to the peace treaty.

The Soviet delegation made additional proposals designed to make the negotiating process more constructive.

The group will continue its work.

ROK Economic Delegation's Moscow Visit Viewed

SK0308062590 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Station commentator Oleg Pedrov on ROK delegation's visit to Moscow from "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The high-level ROK delegation has begun its visit to Moscow. Before the visit, there was an exchange of letters between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and ROK President No Tae-u who had promised to activate the organizational process of relations between the two sides. The leaders of the two countries met for the first time in San Francisco last June. Moscow and Seoul do not have diplomatic relations yet. The ROK delegation consists mainly of experts in international economic relations.

The ROK delegation will meet and hold talks with their counterparts in Moscow, fundamentally, Yuriy Maslyukov, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers [as heard], and delegates of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Economic relations between Moscow and Seoul have been successfully developing for over 2 years on an unofficial basis. Trade between the two sides last year amounted to nearly $600 million, and it is expected to reach almost $1 billion this year.

Since 1990, consular departments have been operating in the capitals of the two countries. The ROK delegation's visit to Moscow will be more important than the contacts made so far. The ROK delegation is headed, for the first time, by Kim Chong-in, ROK presidential secretary for economic affairs. Observers connect this with the willingness of the two countries to complement the economic relations with establishment of diplomatic relations. These issues are expected to share importance in the Moscow talks. According to a report from Seoul, this is mentioned in No Tae-u's letter to Mikhail Gorbachev which was hand carried by Kim Chong-in.

It is too early to tell when Moscow and Seoul will exchange their ambassadors.

YONHAP of the ROK noted that there will be at least three rounds of talks in the capitals of the two countries following the Kim Chong-in-led ROK delegation's visit to Moscow.

The foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the ROK will meet in the regular meetings of the UN General Assembly in September and October for the signing of an agreement on normalizing relations. Efforts will then be made to prepare for No Tae-u's visit to Moscow toward the end of this year and for Gorbachev's visit to Seoul early next year. It is not known whether this is a proposal by the ROK side or whether it reflects the mutual agreement already reached by Moscow and Seoul. The Soviet side is still keeping silent on this. At any rate, Soviet-ROK relations are clearly moving toward establishing official relations.

Each of the two sides will have to solve many problems concerning this issue, such as explaining the reason to its (?regional) allies. Nevertheless, the two countries should have a system to develop relations under present world circumstances. This is necessary for the peoples of the two countries and for the maintenance of security in the region.

Soviet Official Cited on USSR-ROK Relations

SK0308093390 Moscow International Service in Korean 0900 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The Soviet weekly MOSCOVSKIYE NOVOSTI carries a commentary by Vladimir Botkin, chairman of the International Affairs and External Economic Relations Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, concerning perestroyka in the external policies of the Soviet Union, and the following is the gist of the commentary.

Let us look into the development of relations with many countries which were in fact completely over the horizon of our external policy until several years ago. The countries I have in mind here are the countries called the little dragons in the rapidly developing East Asia; Israel; and the Republic of South Africa. These countries were regarded as too bad for us to have any contact with. Has it been a positive experience that we formed our new relations with these countries, which were regarded as the countries with which we should not get in touch until some time ago? Without doubt, it has been positive on the whole, and it demands continuation and further development.

However, the experience we have accumulated shows that there are aspects that call for our caution as well. For example, we have rapidly converted excessively large horrors into excessively large expectations. We regard the states which were subjugated states and puppet states until some time ago, that is, our former enemy states (?that have turned to be our friends) as states with

enormous surplus funds which would make their way into our market and vitalize our economy which is suffering from crisis. Our attitude of looking forward to an instant and simple solution and miracle with which these states would rescue us from crisis and drive us instantly into paradise constantly dominates us and gives birth to a new (?ghost). This attitude prevails in our external policy as well.

Let us look at the case of South Korea. What does Seoul expect from us? Seoul hopes that complete normalization of political and diplomatic relations with us will be realized as soon as possible. I have long maintained that we should form and develop working relations with Seoul, and still believe that this line is correct. However, I think that this process is in progress more satisfactorily in the PRC. Beijing promises far smaller things and it obtains much more. We have jumped over two or three stages, and filled gaps between stages at times, and overlooking Seoul's very clear natural desire, we make it unnecessary for South Korea to pass through the [word indistinct] route toward our interests. I am not convinced that this is correct action.

In our stages, there are such stages where we can sit comfortably, taking a break and looking around, and there are many (?interim companionways). For instance, we can study the place Russia occupies in our ties with other countries as well as the overall place our republics occupy in such relations. In the latter circumstances, there is rich potential and there is the impetus enabling our partners to continuously exert themselves.

In the (?1920s) there were delegates to the founding of the Soviet Union in a number of countries, but [word indistinct] belonged to the Soviet republics. Why do we not think of helping the soldiers of the republics in the countries where we have no embassies? It is far better to deeply think over and calculate than (?hold fantasies) or expectations. I am convinced that this (?attitude) is far from contradictory with the ideas of the new thinking.

Development of USSR-ROK Trade Discussed

SK0308071590 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Discussion on development of trade and economic cooperation between Soviet Union and ROK with Hyundai Group official Hwang Tong-su, station reporter, and unidentified announcer on the "Focus on Asia" program—recorded]

[Text] [Station reporter] The development of trade and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the ROK is gathering speed. It has been revealed that the volume of trade between the two countries for this year will exceed $1 billion.

In what basic direction is cooperation being developed? The first plan is to jointly develop useful minerals in Siberia and the Far East region.

Not long ago, a delegation of the Hyundai Group, one of the great conglomerates, visited Moscow and signed an initial agreement on establishing a joint venture enterprise.

Every year in Svetlaya, the northern region of Vladivostok, more than 50,000 cubic meters of timber are produced. This will be exported to the ROK and other countries in the near future.

Hwang Tong-su, who is in charge of the Hyundai Group mission in Moscow, talked about this plan with the station reporter.

[Hwang Tong-su] This is our first joint venture involving timber production.

[Unidentified announcer] Our counterpart from the Soviet Union side is the Soviet Ministry of the Timber Industry. We welcome the founding of this enterprise and hold the view that cooperation between the two countries will be developed with bright prospects.

[Station reporter] The Hyundai Group also showed interest in the joint development of the deposits of [word indistinct], coal, natural gas and also in the petrol chemical products in (Toborusk).

However, the harsh climate and underdeveloped (?transportation) are making it more difficult to realize this plan. There is a bigger barrier than the weather conditions.

Georgiy Toloraya, secretary of the Soviet-South Korean Economic Council at the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said in relation to this: ROK businessmen are still hesitant to make large investments in the Soviet Union.

[Unidentified announcer] Their reason is the same as that of Western businessmen, that is, the inconvertible ruble, lack of resources to export, and our bureaucratic system.

From my point of view, the issue of expanding our cooperation is first of all dependent upon the issue of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. This is what the Korean side is also insisting on.

[Station reporter] While talking about future cooperation between the two countries, Georgiy Toloraya said that if results are achieved in the cooperation between the two countries a series of enterprises will be constructed in the Soviet Union and that this will upgrade the Soviet Union's position in the Asian and Pacific region market.

On the other hand, the ROK will become one of the major trading partners of the Soviet Union.

Titarenko Interviewed on ROK-USSR Ties

SK0208000790 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 29 Jul 90 p 2

["Summary" of interview with Mikhail Titarenko, director of the Far East Institute in Moscow, who attended an international seminar on Korean affairs, hosted by the East Asian Institute at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States, by correspondent Kim Chang-ki on 27 July]

[Text] [Kim Chang-ki] When do you think Korea and the Soviet Union will establish diplomatic relations?

[Mikhail Titarenko] We do not have to wait that long. This is because the two countries have already experienced considerable cooperation, exchanges, and trust. There are some Korean leaders who are somewhat cautious with regard to this issue because of the current difficult economic situation in the Soviet Union and because of the lack of knowledge about the Soviet economy. However, on the whole, considerably good relations have been established between the two countries. We can say that previous barriers have all been eliminated now.

[Kim] What is the correlation between economic cooperation and diplomatic ties?

[Titarenko] I don't think there is a direct correlation. However, it is clear that development between the two countries in all fields, including the field of economic cooperation, will hasten the establishment of diplomatic ties. This in turn will serve as an incentive for developing economic cooperation into a new phase.

[Kim] In economic cooperation with Korea, in what field does the Soviet Union expect to achieve progress? Also in what field do you think can the Soviet Union be of help to Korea?

[Titarenko] There are many fields in which we seek cooperation with Korea. First of all, there is the development of natural resources and industry in Siberia and the far east region, and the possibility of producing home appliances such as television sets and automobiles through a joint venture between the two countries. We also expect to cooperate with each other in shipbuilding and ship repairs, in modernization of transportation, and in the field of energy development. It will be good if Soviet science and technology and natural resources are combined with Korea's experience of commercializing them.

The Soviet Union will be able to sell to Korea its natural resources, transfer science and technology, and sell patent rights.

Korean students will be able to study in the Soviet Union, and Soviet students will be able to learn business management and marketing in Korea. Also, various cultural exchanges can be carried out.

[Kim] Do you think a joint venture project with North Korea is possible in Korean-Soviet economic cooperation?

[Titarenko] That is quite possible. This will be all the more possible if North and South Korea achieve concrete agreements through dialogue. Not only can tripartite cooperation be achieved, but multifaceted cooperation among the United States, China, and Japan could be possible.

[Kim] What is the Soviet Union's policy on the issue of disarmament between North and South Korea and of easing tensions in Northeast Asia? In President No's speech at the UN General Assembly in 1988, he proposed the formation of a peace council consisting of six countries that will hold discussions on not only the Korean peninsula issue but also on the issue of cooperation in Northeast Asia. Also in President Gorbachev's Krasnoyarsk speech in 1988, he proposed a peace conference in Northeast Asia. What is your view on this?

[Titarenko] The issue of disarmament between North and South Korea greatly depends on North-South dialogue. It is very important for North and South Korea to first of all reach an agreement on nonaggression and the principle of reducing military confrontation by mutual disarmament. After this is achieved, they must agree to gradually reduce arms.

Korea and the U.S. side must also equally prepare to reduce arms. Achievements must be made to suspend large-scale military exercises step by step, to stop the military exercises near the Demilitarized Zone, to gradually reduce the U.S. troops, and to withdraw nuclear weapons.

Along with these, regarding North and South Korean security, it will be possible for the United States, the Soviet Union, and China to be the guarantors. In this respect, President Gorbachev's Krasnoyarsk speech and President No's UN speech are of the same context. The Soviet Union is positive about President No's proposal. In the same manner, President Gorbachev's proposal must also be realized.

[Kim] What is your opinion on the issue of North Korea concluding the nuclear safeguards agreement?

[Titarenko] The investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency must coincide with the interest of North Korea, and if North Korea concludes this agreement, the international assessment of North Korea will be improved.

Of course the United States and Korea must take into consideration the fact that the United States must guarantee North Korea that it will not use its South Korean-based nuclear weapons on North Korea. However, I do not think that this is directly related to the issue of North Korea concluding the agreement.

[Kim] What is the position of the Soviet Union on the issue of North and South Korea's UN entry?

[Titarenko] This issue must also be resolved through dialogue between the North and South first. The Soviet Union thinks that whatever the case, Koreans should represent themselves in the United Nations. The Soviet Union sees no reason for North and South Korea to simultaneously enter the United Nations and does not think that this is a reason for the perpetuation of division. Whether North and South Korea enter the United Nations with one seat or two seats, this issue must be decided by North and South Korea. The Soviet Union believes that Koreans must have a seat in the United Nations, whatever the form may be.

In the meantime, on the afternoon of 28 July, Director Titarenko made a keynote speech during the seminar on the prospects for reunification on the Korean peninsula and stated a five-point plan that is necessary in the international approach toward the Korean peninsula issue.

The first point is that it must be recognized that there are two nations on the Korean peninsula which are North and South Korea, and that the desire for peaceful reunification by the North and South Koreans must be respected. The second point is that reunification between the North and South must not hinder the relations which North and South Korea each have formed with the international society. Reunification must not obstruct the principle of peaceful existence in the international society. The third point is that the process of reconciliation, promotion of trust, dialogue, and cooperation between the East and West must also be spread in the strategic relations among the United States, the Soviet Union, and China so that tensions and military confrontation can be eased between North and South Korea and constructive dialogues can be achieved. The fourth point is that it is desirable to choose an international guarantor for peace and security on the Korean peninsula through multifaceted dialogue including North and South Korea. In this case the United States, Soviet Union, China, Japan, or the United Nations can participate as international guarantors. Finally, the fifth point is that the issue of withdrawing nuclear weapons and U.S. troops from the Korean peninsula must be resolved in connection with the overall situation of this region and in accordance with the tripartite negotiations which includes North and South Korea and the United States.

Month of Solidarity With Korean People Ends

SK0308094990 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] On 27 July, the month of solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for the withdrawal of foreign forces from South Korea and for the peaceful reunification of the country on the basis of democracy is to end. In this connection, station commentator (Igor Lebedev) writes as follows:

I would like to tell you, the listeners, that this kind of month is not the first function that the World Peace Council has observed according to its decision. This time, too, the purpose of the month is to draw the attention of the social circles of the world to the situation on the Korean peninsula, which is divided into the South and the North. To guarantee peace and to politically solve complicated problems threatening the security of Korea for decades, it is imperative to withdraw 43,000 U.S. soldiers, along with nuclear weapons, from South Korea at the earliest possible date. The military presence in South Korea constitutes precisely a major obstacle to organizing North-South dialogue and to solving the basic national problems of the Korean people, including their national reunification.

The current month of solidarity has proven the importance and significance of the international movement supporting the Korean people's just cause. The DPRK's peaceful initiatives and, in particular, its proposal for making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone, have aroused and are arousing positive repercussions among Asian countries.

According to the views of the Soviet Union, China, and other countries, the realization of the proposal will make important major contributions to creating obstacles to the efforts to increase nuclear weapons in Asia and the Pacific.

An atmosphere to initiate prudent dialogue with the DPRK is increasing in South Korea, as well. Seoul has affirmatively responded to the proposals put forward by Pyongyang some time ago. Its essence is to lower the level of durable confrontation on the Korean peninsula. The desire of the South and the North to open part of their borders near Panmunjom can be regarded as affirmative momentum in the development of the Korean situation. However, this is not a simple business. There has been a change in Washington's stand on its military presence in Korea. The number of U.S. soldiers stationed in South Korea will be markedly reduced between 1991 and 1993.

The month of solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for the withdrawal of foreign forces from South Korea and for the peaceful reunification of the country on the basis of democracy is coming to an end. During the month of solidarity, rallies and meetings were held to support the Korean people's just cause.

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait

USSR Calls For Withdrawal

LD0208122390 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zaitsev and Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The Soviet Union today called for "the urgent and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territory," a Soviet spokesman told a news briefing here today.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh read out the Soviet Government's statement regarding the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops.

"The Soviet Union," the statement says, "believes that no contentious issues, no matter how complicated, justify the use of force. Such events totally contradict the interests of Arab states, create new, additional obstacles to the settlement of conflicts in the Middle East and run counter to the positive tendencies of improvement in international life."

"The Soviet Government is convinced that the elimination of dangerous tension in the Persian Gulf would promote the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territory. The sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait "must be fully restored and defended," the statement runs.

Situation 'Remains Unclear'

PM0208150790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Dispatch by IZVESITYA correspondent B. Ivanov: "Kuwait Captured by Iraqi Troops"]

[Text] Kuwait—Last night the residents of the building which houses the IZVESTIYA correspondent's center were awakened by an abrupt roar. The windows rattled. Military aircraft flew over the city's residential districts, gaining height. Some time later the sounds of artillery fire reached us from the north. At 0200 the Iraqi Army violated the border and invaded Kuwaiti territory.

A few hours later the country's Ministry of Defense issued a statement emphasizing that the Iraqi Armed Forces had attacked Kuwait with no warning. In such a situation it is Kuwait's right to use all available forces to defend itself against aggression by its northern neighbor.

The Iraqi attack is the latest link in a chain of events over the past two weeks that have caused a sharp surge of tension between the two Arab states. It immediately followed the virtual failure of the talks between delegations from Baghdad and Kuwait in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), which had been expected to draw up the foundations for a possible settlement of disputed questions between the two countries and which were organized with great difficulty and only thanks to a mediatory mission by President H. Mubarak of Egypt and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Local observers point out that the talks were virtually doomed to fail right from the start, as soon as it became clear that the Iraqi side had, in point of fact, advanced demands unacceptable to Kuwait (IZVESTIYA has already written of them repeatedly in recent days) and refused any search for a compromise.

The situation in the city now remains unclear. Traffic in the streets has been halted. Detachments of soldiers stop the few vehicles out and about, check the drivers' documents, and search the trunks.

According to the latest reports, Iraqi troops have already entered the Kuwaiti capital and captured practically all key government establishments, including the television and radio stations. The palace of the amir of Kuwait has also been captured. A large concentration of Iraqi tanks—approximately several hundred—has been seen in the city center. The U.S. and British Embassies are surrounded by a dense ring of troops.

A correspondent for the BBC radio broadcasting company has just reported that Baghdad Radio announced a few hours after the start of hostilities that the Kuwaiti Government had been overthrown.

Telephone links between Kuwait and the outside world have been cut. It is hard to say how events will develop now. Everyone expects some official statement over radio or television, although it is not yet clear from which side—Iraqi or Kuwaiti—it might come in the present situation. At the present time the situation in the region of the Soviet Embassy, from where this report is being telexed, remains fairly calm. The noise of gun volleys and bursts of machine gun and submachine gun fire can be heard sporadically. A while ago a dense column of smoke appeared on the horizon in the region of the port—it cannot be ruled out that oil tanks have caught fire.

Compared To Panama, Grenada

PM0208154590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Aug 90 First Edition p 3

[V. Vinogradov "Observer's Opinion" under the general heading: "Persian Gulf: Flames of War Again"]

[Text] It has happened all the same. At first it was believed that reason would prevail and the needle of the political barometer in the Persian Gulf would move from the designation "stormy." But it has not moved. During the night of 1-2 August a massive grouping of Iraqi troops violated the border and invaded neighboring Kuwait.

Whatever reasons Baghdad may use to justify its actions, justification for them can hardly be found. Iraq has indulged in the overt use of armed forces and grossly violated the UN Charter. The use of military force is not an argument; it is, rather, a sign of the weakness of one's own position. All disputed questions can and must be resolved around the negotiating table. And Baghdad had such an opportunity when an Iraqi and a Kuwaiti delegation met in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia). But it turns out that it scorned it.

Yes, I repeat, in my opinion Baghdad is wrong. But let us make a small diversion and think about why it nonetheless risked taking such a step. And one cannot help recalling the invasion of Panama by U.S. troops not so

long ago, when Washington, according to the right of the strong, occupied the country which had refused to submit to its diktat. It is also possible to recall an event of longer ago—the freedom and sovereignty of the island state of Grenada trampled by the U.S. interventionist's boot.

In both cases the attacker was condemned by the world community but nonetheless enjoyed the fruits of his criminal actions. Is not Baghdad counting on the same thing? This is why one must not remain a neutral witness to what has happened in the Persian Gulf. The Iraqi side's perfidious, unjustified actions must be condemned unconditionally, and its troops must leave Kuwaiti soil without delay.

The UN Security Council was to meet for an emergency session late last night. Measures must be taken to rule out similar actions in the future on the part of anyone whatever.

Arms Supplies Suspended

LD0208172890 Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—In a situation that has arisen in connection with the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi Armed Forces, the Soviet Union has decided to suspend supplies of arms and military hardware to Iraq, the Soviet Foreign Ministry announced.

TASS Reports on Situation

LD0208174990 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Doroshenko]

[Text] Kuwait August 2 TASS—The Kuwaiti capital is being shelled by artillery and tank guns. Bursts of submachine-gun and machine-gun fire are heard in the city. An assault of the palace of Prime Minister and Crowned Prince Sa'ad al-Abdallah is now in progress in direct proximity to the Soviet Embassy.

Shells also hit residential areas in the city. One of them went off at a distance of approximately 20 metres away from the TASS office.

Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers have been concentrated on the capital's embankment in Salmiya District. Fighting is also underway between the fourth and fifth ring roads, in the area where Soviet oil-industry specialists live. A helicopter was shot down over the oil field in the area of Al-Ahmadi.

An unknown radio station periodically goes on the air in the medium waveband, calling for Kuwaitis' "resistance to the aggressor, for steadfastness, high level of organisation and self-sacrifice".

Local journalists reported by telephone that the palace of the amir was caputred this afternoon but that the monarch managed took hiding in Saudi Arabia.

A statement by a "Provisional Government of Free Kuwait" was broadcast on Iraqi television several times. The Al-Sabah regime ruling in Kuwait is being accused of anti-popular policy and the embezzlement of national resources for the purpose of personal enrichment.

The regime is also being accused of "suppressing democracy and of assisting imperialism and international zionism".

The National Council was declared to be an unconstitutional body and dissolved. It is being emphasized that elections to the National Assembly (parliament) will be announced following the normalisation of the situation in the country.

The statement stresses that amir Jabir Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sa'ad al-Abdallah have been overthrown. The "provisional government" through an Iraqi television announcer warned against interference in the conflict by any third party, by any foreign forces or navies.

USSR Urges UN Resolution

LD0208193490 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union has condemned the use of force by Iraq against Kuwait and has demanded that Iraq withdraw its troops from Kuwait immediately and unconditionally. [passage omitted] His [Shevardnadze's] deputy, Aleksandr Belonogov, receiving Kuwait's ambassador in Moscow, voiced concern over the situation, and said that his country would act in keeping with the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in internal affairs. When Belonogov received Iraq's ambassador, he voiced hope that Iraq would immediately carry out the resolution adopted by the Security Council denouncing Iraqi action and demanding the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Importance of Resolution Stressed

LD0208221790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2048 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Announcer Dmitriy Kiselev] The situation in Kuwait is so serious that we need to have recourse to specialists. At this late hour we have turned to Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Belonogov, deputy foreign minister, who is still at work, with a request to help us find our bearings to some extent in this situation. We shall now dial his number.

[Belonogov] Hello.

[Kiselev] Aleksandr Mikhaylovich, good evening once again. The Television News Service greets you. I have one short question. What possible options do you see for the development of events in the future?

[Belonogov] Well, it is very difficult, of course, to foresee the development of events. To all intents and purposes the Armed Forces of Iraq are in control of the territory of Kuwait and all the vital installations in that country. Well, it is known what interpretation official Baghdad is giving to these events. There has been a decision by the Security Council, which is demanding in categorical terms the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq's forces from the territory of Kuwait to the positions that they were occupying up to 1 August this year. We proceed on the basis that this resolution must be fully implemented as quickly as possible. We are studying the positions of each of the capitals to get a clearer idea of how this situation appears in the assessment of the governments of the countries involved.

[Kiselev] I see. Well, thank you very much. We are grateful to you for such an authoritative answer. Good bye and greetings from the listeners, or rather the viewers of the Television News Service.

[Belonogov] You are welcome.

[Kiselev] Good bye.

[Belonogov] All the best!

'Provisional Government' Formed

PM0208195390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Aug 90 Second Edition p 5

[Dispatch by NOVOSTI correspondent S. Kanayev under the general heading: "Hot Spots of the Planet: Iraqi Tanks in Kuwait"]

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Aug—There is no sign of military operations being conducted in the capital of Kuwait. Only occasionally does the distant rumble of explosions reach here. Traffic has resumed along the main routes and has not ceased throughout the day on some of them. Telephone communications are operating inside the city, as are telex links with the outside world.

A statement broadcast on one of the radio channels states that as a result of the "blessed uprising" power in the country has passed to a new leadership—the "provisional free government."

The new government has urged the population to keep calm and support the organs of power. Attempts to demonstrate or organize disturbances will be crushed with an "iron hand," this address states.

The provisional government has declared its allegiance to Arab and Islamic unity and confirmed all of Kuwait's external obligations and treaties. Protection of the rights, person, and property of all citizens of Kuwait and also foreign subjects has been proclaimed.

Immediate End Expected

LD0208205490 Moscow TASS in English 2018 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] United Nations August 3 TASS—The United Nations Security Council condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and called for urgent talks between the two countries.

A resolution adopted by the Council's morning session on Thursday demands the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops to positions they held on August 1.

The resolution was voted in by 14 out of 15 council members. Only the Yemeni representative said that he could not participate in the vote, since he did not receive instructions from his government.

The Security Council was called for an urgent session at the request of Kuwait and the United States.

Speaking at the meeting before the vote, Kuwaiti permanent representative to the UN Muhammad A. Abu-al-Hasan called Iraqi actions a flagrant violation of the UN Charter.

Seeking to justify Baghdad's actions, Iraqi representative Sabah Kadrat alleged that Iraq had received a request to restore law and order in Kuwait. According to him, this request had been received from "the free interim government of Kuwait."

He said that Iraqi troops would be withdrawn from Kuwait as soon as law and order are restored there.

U.S. Chief Delegate Thomas Pickering said that the Iraqi aggression was unprovoked.

The Soviet Union expects an immediate end to the armed invasion and withdrawal of Iraqi troops, said Soviet Representative Valentin Lozinskiy.

After the resolution was adopted, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed satisfaction that the Council acted quickly and adopted an important decision on the Iraqi-Kuwait problem.

Premier Addresses Kuwait

LD0208235290 Moscow TASS in English 2309 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Doroshenko]

[Text] Kuwait City August 3 TASS—A fight near the Soviet Embassy in Kuwait was short and fierce. At about 18:00 Moscow time [1400 GMT], a column of Iraqi tanks surrounded the palace of Crown Prince Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Sabah and shelled it for about half an hour from guns and machine-guns.

After Iraqis made sure there will be no more retaliatory firing from the palace, they drew up in a march formation and a column of tanks (about a battalion) marched along the bank towards Salmiya, where several yacht clubs are situated.

At 20:30, a portrait of Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Sabah appeared on the screens of the 1st and 2nd programmes of Kuwaiti television, and the recording of his statement was broadcast. He condemned Iraq's "treacherous aggressive attack" and noted that it was aimed not only against Kuwait, but against the Arab nation.

Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Sabah stressed that Kuwait always followed a peaceful policy, "providing its land for peace and friendship [passage indistinct].

Kuwait Invasion Summarized

LD0308104390 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Late this morning Iraqi forces penetrated the Kuwaiti capital. Our radio correspondent, Oleg Ivanov, wrote: I did not expect this sharp turn of events, to tell the truth. Despite the sharpness of the dispute and the exchange of accusations, despite the Iraqi leadership's amassing of forces on the Kuwaiti border, all this did not seem to be more than threats, it did not seem that it would go so far as war. However it did, despite all this.

The Iraqi forces penetrated the Kuwaiti borders in the middle of the night and captured some border control posts. They are marching, according to Radio Kuwait news, toward the capital. Exchanges of fire have been heard since this morning. A shell exploded 50 meters from the amir's palace. After that, the Iraqi tanks entered Kuwait. Baghdad says that a coup took place and that order must be reestablished.

The curtain seems to have been drawn for the second act of the war drama in the Gulf. Iraq has attacked its most faithful ally in the Iraq-Iran war, whose aid—amounting to billions—helped Baghdad to keep going in its war against Tehran.

The reason behind the aggression is very simple. It is limited to the oil production quota and price per barrel. Iraq thinks that Kuwait did not abide by its commitments regarding production, and that it is consequently causing a slump in prices.

Despite the fact that OPEC gave in to Baghdad and raised prices to $21 per barrel, Saddam Husayn wants $25 per barrel. It is true that Iraq really suffered huge financial losses because of Kuwait's failure to abide by its commitments. These funds are now necessary for Iraq to reconstruct an economy which has been damaged by war.

All this is true, but is this rise in price of $4 per barrel sufficient reason for an aggression against an Arab state which is also a former ally, especially since the two countries' forces are totally unbalanced. Kuwait cannot face up to the Iraqi Army, which was hardened in the war against the Iranians, and which totals 100,000 soldiers mobilized against Kuwait. Kuwait can only field 20,000 soldiers to face up to this army, and no more than 170,000 soldiers from all the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Thus, maybe the reason is not only oil, or maybe oil is a reason to show force and to claim leadership of the Arab world, or maybe this is Baghdad's response to the beginning of the normalization of relations between Kuwait and Iran. The reason lies somewhere in the middle.

This means that the policy of force forsaken by the two superpowers following decades of sterile and exhausting confrontation has come back to a regional level. It also means that disturbances are still present in the Middle East, and that they are sharply escalating, because natural coexistence is impossible in conditions of pressure put by one on another.

The important thing, in our radio correspondent's opinion, is the impossibility of solving any problems in this way, which makes the coming disputes and conflicts even more complicated.

Iraq has inflicted a military defeat on Kuwait, but do the other Arab and non-Arab countries want to listen to the cries from Baghdad, and who will dare anger Saddam Husayn next time?

Iraq Aggression Condemned

LD0308115690 Moscow TASS in English 1144 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—"We all denounce the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and think that the aggression should be stopped immediately," Mikhail Kapitsa, chairman of the Soviet Committee For Solidarity With Asian and African Nations, told TASS.

He urged the United Nations to intervene immediately in the conflict to make Iraq withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

"Despite peace negotiations in the spirit of new political thinking, a large power used its Army against a small defenseless state," he said.

There is no reason to use force to settle disputes between states, it is necessary to seek peaceful means in settling disputes, he said.

"If we want our world to move away from wars and violence, the international public should show its willpower and force the aggressor to retreat," he stressed.

The Soviet Peace Committee called on the United Nations and the Arab League today to take resolute action to end the aggression, make Iraq withdraw its

forces from Kuwait and restore the Kuwaitis' right to decide their future independently.

Soviet-Afghan Economic Cooperation Talks Held

LD0208174490 Moscow TASS in English 1644 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS special correspondent Yuriy Stepanov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The ninth meeting of the permanent inter-governmental Soviet-Afghan commission on economic cooperation, which began here today, is being held at a difficult time for both countries, Deputy Prime Minister Igor Belousov who leads the Soviet delegation, said at the opening of the talks.

The Afghan delegation is headed by Deputy Prime Minister Sawar Mangal.

The Soviet economy is switching to market relations with great difficulty. Afghanistan has not healed wounds inflicted by the war.

However, these circumstances should not tell on the development of bilateral relations in the economic, trade, scientific and other spheres, Belousov stressed.

The recent decision to resume Soviet participation in the construction and exploitation of operating Soviet-Afghan projects in Afghanistan highlight the present talks.

The Afghan delegation will have meetings in the Soviet ministries of the power industry and geology, as well as talks with the management of the Gazprom concern, other Soviet departments and union republics.

Later in the day Mangal will meet Soviet Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev. The talks will continue tomorrow.

East Europe

Passengers Picket Railway at Polish Border

LD0208192390

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1500 GMT on 2 August carries a three-minute report by correspondent Aleksandr Goldin from the USSR Ministry of Railways, stating that on the border with Poland, at the Mastishko station, passengers of the Chernovtsy-Warsaw train started picketing the railway at 1300 Moscow time today. The pickets were protesting the recent decision of the country's government essentially banning Soviet citizens from traveling to neighboring countries under all-Union passports and travel permits.

Goldin says that he has just spoken on the phone to the train controller of the Lvov railway division, Nikolay Nikolayevich Zaychenko, who told him that the border guards are promising to resolve this major conflict in the next half hour. But in the meantime the passenger train has been standing still at Mastishko station and has been holding up a train with Krivoy Rog ore for Polish metallurgists.

Goldin goes on to point out that the draft law on railway transport, which so far has not been passed by the Supreme Sovet, provides for heavy fines and imprisonment for railway pickets.

Gorbachev Congratulates Zhelev on Election

LD0208192490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has sent a telegram to the president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Zheleu Zhelev, congratulating him on his election to the post. The telegram expresses the hope that the comprehensive ties between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria at the the present time of profound change in our countries will develop fruitfully for the benefit of both peoples and in the interests of reinforcing security and goodneighborliness on the European continent.

Bulgaria's Zhelev on USSR Relations, Attitude

LD0208220190 Moscow Television Service in Russia 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] As already reported, after many days of intense debates the Bulgarian Parliament has elected Zhelo Zhelev the country's president. [passage omitted]

Dr. Zhelev kindly received correspondents from Soviet television. We had a rather prolonged conversation. I would like to offer you just one extract from my interview with him. This is what Zhelev said in reply to my question on whether the new political forces in Bulgaria coming to power will affect Soviet-Bulgarian relations:

[Begin Zhelev recording] Bulgaria traditionally has a special attitude to and special relations with the Russian people. That is not the result of the Communist Party. They have existed since time immemorial, perhaps over 200 years. And all these relations, including spiritual relations, which exist, cannot disappear as a result of some political changes inside our country. In addition, whatever differences, or general changes under way, both in your country and in ours, we are moving in the same direction. What is happening in the USSR is also a process of democratization, though it is taking place more painfully and with greater difficulty. We welcome this process. We see the USSR as an ally, a natural ally, in our struggle for democratization.

'Pragmatic' Markovic Launches New Yugoslav Party

PM0208133390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Second Edition p 1

[Dispatch by PRAVDA correspondent Ye. Fadeyev: "Government Unites Forces"]

[Text] Belgrade, 30 Jul—The Yugoslav mass media report today a statement by Ante Markovic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council (government).

Speaking to participants in a 100,000-strong rally at Mount Kozara in the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, he said: "We members of the SFRY Government have adopted a decision to create a Union of Reform Forces of Yugoslavia, which will participate in the country's first multiparty elections. The union is open to all political parties and all citizens."

Ante Markovic observed that the government has carried out talks with republic leaders, who all, without exception, in his words, advocated the continued existence of Yugoslavia. The further upcoming talks will be devoted to the nature of relations among the republics and the model of the system of future Yugoslavia. There is agreement, Markovic continued, that our country must be a country with a market economy and a multiparty system, and a law-governed and socially just state.

Everyone in the SFRY well remembers the words uttered by the head of government in January after the LCY [League of Communists of Yugoslavia] 14th (Extraordinary) Congress was dramatically cut short: "Yugoslavia will continue to function with or without the party."

And now, when the LCY has virtually disintegrated and federal formations are getting increasingly enmeshed in interethnic discord, 65-year-old Ante Markovic has decided to make his own contribution to stabilizing the situation. The Novi Sad newspaper DNEVNIK writes in a commentary: "The current Federal Executive Council president is distinguished from his predecessors by the fact that, in addition to a belt-tightening policy, he is offering the people at least the outlines of an economic program which gives hope of our emerging from the tunnel of crisis...."

By announcing the creation of the Union of Reform Forces and his desire to fight the nationwide elections Ante Markovic again shows himself to be a pragmatic and experienced politician.

In yesterday's speech the federal government head specially noted the following: "The program of reforms, now in full swing, is the new factor in ensuring Yugoslavia's unity."

Dlouhy Views Economic Ties With USSR

LD0208204190 Prague CTK in English 1714 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow Aug 2 (CTK)—As regards strategic oil supplies the Czechoslovak side insists unambiguously on the fulfilment of the last year agreement, Czechoslovak Economy Minister Vladimir Dlouhy told Czechoslovak and Soviet journalists here today.

Commenting on his two-day talks with Soviet First Deputy Premiers Yuriy Maslyukov and Vladilen Nikitin, Minister Dlouhy underlined that the Czechoslovak delegation left for Moscow with the decision to demand the fulfilment of the agreement concluded between Czechoslovak and Soviet premiers Ladislav Adamec and Nikolay Ryzhkov in February 1989. According to these agreements the Soviet Union has to supply Czechoslovakia with oil and other commodities till 1995. The minister pointed out that the Soviet oil supplies to Czechoslovakia in July and August were cut considerably—by 400,000 tonnes monthly.

Czechoslovakia respects the economic problems of the Soviet Union but insists on a quick conclusion of agreements on an indicative list of supplies, Minister Dlouhy stressed, adding that he is to meet with Maslyukov in a month again. The Soviet first deputy premier has promised that the Soviet Union will strive to find a way of coming closer to the originally planned supplies.

Answering the question whether Czechoslovakia intends to cooperate with individual Soviet republics, Minister Dlouhy said that if the Soviet Union cuts raw material supplies Czechoslovakia will have to find them in other countries. The central Soviet organs have in fact no objections against Czechoslovakia's negotiations with individual republics if all customs and other principles are respected, said the Czechoslovak economy minister.

As regards the transition to world prices and freely convertible currencies in the economic relations between the two countries, the minister said that it is a correct step but pointed out at the same time that the Soviet side will have to open up its economy more, including the creation of prices.

Czechoslovakia has been for a long time considering the Soviet Union a standard world market. It supplies the Soviet Union with some kinds of commodities which have the character of goods sold for freely convertible currencies. If the Soviet Union reduces the volume of mutual trade, Czechoslovakia would have to reorientate itself to other markets. For the Soviet Union it would mean a loss of significant supplier of engineering and consumer goods. The Czechoslovak side is aware of the enormous potential of the Soviet market and does not consider it reasonable to give it up, Vladimir Dlouhy underlined.

Troops Withdraw From CSFR on Schedule

LD0208165690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] The withdrawal of Soviet forces from the CSFR is continuing. Ten trainloads of Soviet military equipment and assets will leave the town of Trutnov in the eastern CSFR for home before 7 August, in accordance with the

timetable. The area previously occupied by the garrison is being handed over to a local agricultural cooperative. It is likely that the housing will be taken over by Trutnov's municipal council. The withdrawal of Soviet forces from the CSFR is proceeding strictly according to schedule.

West Europe

Planned UK Defense Reform, Cuts Outlined

PM0208144490 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jul 90 Second Edition p 7

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent A. Lyutyy under the rubric: "On the Spot": "Warm Wind From the East"]

[Text] London—There will be far fewer people in military uniforms in coming years on the streets of London, and indeed, of other British cities. Last Wednesday, Defense Secretary Tom King announced to parliament the biggest reform of the British Armed Forces for several decades.

The publication of the document drawn up on this account, "Options for Change," has become an event. During its presentation in the House of Commons, M. Thatcher considered it necessary to be at King's side. After all, through the lips of the defense secretary she herself was setting out the emphases in the country's military policy.

The emphases are on the whole encouraging. Britain, which occupied just about the hardest position in the sphere of disarmament, has begun to take constructive steps in the spirit of the North Atlantic alliance's declaration, which was made right here in London at the beginning of this month. What then are the principal provisions of "Options for Change"?

In view of the "sharp reduction in tension in East-West relations," the government has deemed it possible to reduce the size of the British Armed Forces by 57,000 men, or 18 percent, over five to seven years. The largest reductions will affect the ground forces—they will decrease from 160,000 to 120,000 men. As had been expected, within the framework of the reduction of the NATO presence on FRG territory, the 55,000-strong British Army of the Rhine will be cut roughly by half.

British Air Force subunits stationed in the FRG will also be subject to reductions. Indeed, the country's Air Force personnel will be significantly reduced as a whole. It is proposed to decommission the "Buccaneer" and "Phantom" combat aircraft, which were becoming obsolete, and to acquire a fighter which is being developed jointly by a number of West European countries.

The government will also have to go back on its 1987 election campaign pledge to keep 50 frigates and destroyers in the Navy. Of the 48 ships of this type already in in commission, eight will be returned to dock. The number of submarines will be reduced from 27 to 11, and the strength of the Navy will be reduced from 63,000 to 60,000 men.

Together with the previously announced cancellation of an order for 33 "Tornado" fighter-bombers and reduction in the country's 21-billion-pound military budget of 600 million pounds, the plans envisaged by "Options for Change" look rather impressive.

However, if London's steps are viewed in an all-European context, they still seem to be the most unhurried and cautious. M. Thatcher, BBC television noted, "continues to be guided by her own instincts, and considers that in today's uncertain world Britain must preserve a powerful military machine."

In other words, a series of reductions in military hardware will be compensated for by the commissioning of new systems. At the same time it will be necessary to build accommodation on bases in Britain for the soldiers and officers who will be arriving from the FRG, and this will also cost money. The question of retraining personnel who can expect to be made redundant by the reductions in military orders is not straightforward either. All the same, it is not these problems which determine the prevailing mood of Britons vis-a-vis the government report. Recently I visited Portsmouth, where one of Britain's three main shipyards that build warships is situated. I asked an inhabitant of the city whether the local population was frightened by the prospects of a reduction in military orders. My collocutor confidently replied that new civil orders should come with the new times.

The warm wind of change blowing from the East, he believes, is far more beneficial for the British economic ship than the foul weather of the "cold war."

Finnish Interior Minister Denies Asylum Request

LD0208181590 Moscow TASS in English 1741 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Helsinki August 2 TASS—Finnish Interior Minister Jarmo Rantanen decided today to turn down a request for a political asylum by Soviet citizen M. Varfolomeyev who had hijacked an Aeroflot jetliner to Finland, says a report by the Finnish Interior Ministry circulated here today.

The Finnish Interior Ministry believes that Varfolomeyev's request does not contain any facts, on the grounds of which he could be regarded a victim of political persecutions in the USSR in conformity with the Geneva convention on the status of refugees.

According to the Ministry, Varfolomeyev is guilty of a serious non-political crime to which the Geneva convention is not applicable.

The decision is not subject to appeal. The Finnish Justice Ministry will decide the question on the extradition of Varfolomeyev to Soviet authorities.

Petrovskiy's Visit to Norway, Sweden Reported

PM0308093190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] V.F. Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, has visited Norway and Sweden.

In Oslo, he held consultations with H. Vindenes, permanent deputy foreign minister of Norway, during which a broad range of international problems was examined with the accent on the need to strengthen global and regional security structures. The consultations revealed that positions coincide to a considerable degree on questions being discussed in the United Nations and at European forums.

A meeting also took place with K. Vollebaek, Norwegian acting foreign minister and secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry, with G. Harlem Brundtland, chairman of the Storting Foreign Policy Committee, and S. Lodgaard, director of the Peace Research Institute.

When in Stockholm, V.F. Petrovskiy was received by O. Engkvist, the Swedish acting prime minister [title as published]. A detailed discussion took place on a broad spectrum of world problems and questions of preparing for the forthcoming 45th session of the United Nations General Assembly and also of consolidating regional and above all, European, security.

V.F. Petrovskiy also met with the leadership of the Nordic Council Secretariat. An understanding was reached about imparting a systematic nature to bilateral cooperation with this interparliamentary north European organization.

1 Billion Dollars in Diamonds Sold to Swiss Firm

LD0308091490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2048 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Presenter Dmitriy Kiselev] Now our correspondent Vladimir Solovyev interviews Valeriy Rudakov, head of the Main Directorate for Precious Metals and Diamonds. According to Western news agencies, the Soviet Union plans to sell a large consignment of diamonds on the international market. Is this report correct?

[Begin recording] [Rudakov] Yes. We have concluded a contract with the Swiss firm De Beers Centenary. I stress that it is a Swiss firm, because some sections of the mass media have reported that we have concluded a contract with the South African company. That is not so. We have concluded a five-year contract with the Swiss firm, De Beers Centenary, for the supply of diamonds. It is worth $1 billion. Generally speaking, the agreement is not anything out of the ordinary. The Soviet Union has been selling diamonds for about 30 years. We are one of the biggest diamond-mining powers in the world. So it is a natural thing to do. The unusual thing about this deal is the fact that we are getting the money now, as an advance on final the payment of $1 billion.

[Solovyev] In other words, the money comes first?

[Rudakov] The money comes first.

[Solovyev] So you're saying that this is an advantageous deal, that this $1 billion will in some way ease the situation our country finds itself in at the moment?

[Rudakov] The advantages are obvious from all points of view. Will the deal help our country? I hope it will, since everybody knows about the difficult hard currency situation our state is in. But the way this $1 billion is spent is not a matter for our directorate. This is the government's prerogative. [end recording]

Political & Social

Gorbachev, Yeltsin Sign Economic Agreement

LD0208152290 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—According to the MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the Russian Federation's parliament Boris Yeltsin, as well as prime ministers of the USSR and the Russian Federation Nikolay Ryzhkov and Ivan Silayev signed a "document about a common policy on the country's economic salvation".

According to the newspaper, an action programme of the centre and the Russian Federation is to be drafted by September 1. Incidentally, "its concept will be based on Boris Yeltsin's proposals and experience of union republics".

The main features of the future action programme are the renunciation of immediate price hikes and encouragement of all forms of economic initiative, MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA writes.

IZVESTIYA Cited on Agreement

LD0208212590 Moscow TASS in English 2029 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the Russian Federation's Parliament Boris Yeltsin agreed to set up an expert group which will include representatives from union republics, to draft a programme for transition to a market economy in the USSR, reports the Moscow-based IZVESTIYA newspaper here today.

The programme "should be ready by September when the Supreme Soviets of the USSR and the Russian Federation [words indistinct].

"In fact, this is the first step to integration, better to say a hope for it, after the latest mutual altercations between the centre and union republics and vice versa," IZVESTIYA writes.

"This is well-nigh the last chance to arrest disintegration processes which virtually paralysed the USSR's economy, now in a morbid state due to its inner laws and contradictions, intrinsic to the chosen model of development."

"The programme should underlie a union treaty, especially its economic part," the newspaper continues.

"If participants in the drafting of the programme agree and if political ambitions and republican protectionism do not prevail, this work will result in a mechanism to work out and implement concerted actions by sovereign republics, a mechanism necessary for the establishment of a countrywide market.

"The imperial diktat of the centre will be ruled out, since rejection by republics of some or other conditions and the absence of accord make all work senseless," IZVESTIYA notes.

"On the other hand, this circumstance guarantees the preservation of the countrywide market and the Soviet Union as a whole if the sides achieve consensus while drafting the programme.

"This consensus is quite possible, since the programme will be based on mechanisms of stabilisation and development of the market, tested by world practices and adapted to our country," IZVESTIYA emphasises.

"These principles will necessitate complete deideologisation of the economic policy under examination, which should also promote the unification of union republics."

In the opinion of the newspaper, "the most important thing is that an alliance between Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin has emerged. The programme for transition to market relations needs broad support.

"The pooling of efforts and concerted actions by the two most prestigious leaders in the country ensure a new credit of confidence for the programme. Despite all difficulties, this will give it a great chance for success," IZVESTIYA notes.

Yeltsin on Agreement With Gorbachev, Baltics

LD0208224690 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2048 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Interview with Boris Yeltsin by S. Antsupov at Riga Airport, 2 August, captioned "Interview Prior to Departure"; from the "Television News Service" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer Dmitriy Kiselev] As we have already reported, Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin have agreed on the creation of a special group that will draft conceptual guidelines for a transition to the market throughout the country.

[Yeltsin] We also met the chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet and subsequently those of Lithuania and Estonia. We agreed on our next actions and above all the conclusion of bilateral treaties between Latvia and Russia, between Lithuania and Russia, and between Estonia and Russia. The treaty will be all-embracing. It will provide the political, legal, economic, scientific, technical, trade, social, interethnic, and cultural foundations for relations. Naturally, citizenship questions and the issue of social protection will also be addressed. For instance, we have Latvians living among us and a section of the Latvian population is Russian-speaking. This is also significant because this is a problem we have to resolve. I believe that in this treaty we will outline and determine ways of resolving this problem. We have established a timetable. All four Supreme Soviet chairmen signed. We have established a timetable for the

conclusion of the treaties. This will take one and a half months, or two at the most.

[Correspondent S. Antsupov] Thank you. In an interview with us you already mentioned that you intend to propose that the center adopt Russia's program. You also mentioned that, regardless of whether the center adopts this program or not, you will insist that Russia must have its own economic program. If the center refuses to adopt your program, what actions might you take?

[Yeltsin] I can already say today that the center will adopt this program, because today's IZVESTIYA newspaper publishes a report that Gorbachev and Yeltsin have signed a special accord, as it were, to the effect that they will set up a group that will draw up an all-Union program on the basis of Russia's conceptual program. In other words, it will not be the central government's program, which is now being criticized and which of course will not be adopted, I think. This will lead to the resignation of the central government. The program will be based on Russia's conceptual basis. Gorbachev and I signed this document precisely while I was here. We conversed over the telephone several times. Subsequently we signed this document. I put this proposal to him in the form of a letter, suggesting that this was the only way out, telling him that we were proposing the Russian program, so that we don't have to have our own currency. However, if the union does not accept our program, we will have to have our own currency within Russia, as part of the implementation of this program. We would go for this.

Experts To Draft Economic Program by 1 Sep

LD0208220290 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] As INTERFAX has reported, President Gorbachev has signed a decree on preparation for a transition to a market economy on a nationwide scale. A group of scientists and experts has been asked to help draft an appropriate program. The document came after an agreement between the USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russia's President Boris Yeltsin. It is regarded as the first substantial agreement between the two leaders on economic policy. Both presidents will control the group's activity. The program is to make up the basis of a Union treaty. Its characteristic feature is refusal to raise prices immediately and encourage all forms of economic initiative. The concept of transition to a market economy is to be worked out by 1 September.

Leaders Agree on Reform Group

LD0308120690 Moscow TASS in English 1136 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Lev Aksenov]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—The leaders of the Soviet Union as a whole and of Russia as its largest Republic have agreed to create an expert group to work out a plan for the transition to a market economy. Related efforts are already under way, Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev told TASS.

"On the basis of an understanding reached between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov, on the one hand, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin and me, on the other, Gorbachev issued an order for work on an economic reform concept to be started immediately," he said.

"The work, to be conducted under the guidance of the Presidential Council, should be based on documents already available at federal and republican levels, first of all the Russian Republic's economic programme.

"All republics shall be invited to take part in the work on a voluntary basis," Silayev said.

The expert group will include a number of scholars and specialists representing various republics, who will focus on a reform concept for the whole of the Soviet Union.

The programme, seen as a basis for the economic part of a new Soviet Union treaty, should be ready by September when the Federal and Russian Supreme Soviet legislatures go into session.

Economic Reform Group Outlined

LD0208191490 Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] According to the news agency INTERFAX, the Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Boris Yeltsin have agreed on the formation of a joint group of experts on economic reform. Vyacheslav Terekhov supplies the details:

The group consists of top scientists and specialists such as the economic adviser of the president, Nikolay Petrakov; a member of the Presidential Council, Stanislav Shatalin; Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin; and deputy of the Russian head of the government, Grigoriy Yevlinskiy. They will probably be joined by representatives of other republics. They will work out the concept of the transition to a market economy on a national scale not later than in September.

Such a pooling of efforts is prompted by objective necessity. A clearly abnormal situation emerged when differences became evident between the plans of the national reform and the Russian reform, known as the program of 500 days. And coordination, though belated, especially considering the work of the Union treaty, is necessary because the country cannot carry out a national economic reform while the biggest republic, that's the Russian Federation, has its own.

In this connection Deputy Chairman of the National Commission for the Economic Reform, Andrey Orlov, said: We realize perfectly well that it is time to rescue the country, not to split into regions. We must pool the efforts of those who are capable to concerted action [as

heard]. Unfortunately our intellectual potential is not so rich to waste it; time grows though, and new people are coming to the fore, which is good. But still, now we have to unite efforts—this is the main thing. If the process is joined by the other republics I think it will be the happiest chance to expand reform.

It must be mentioned that when the national government started finalizing the initial version of its plan, it took many proposals from the republics into account. Besides, it decided to draft several special documents on the interaction of the republics in the course of the reform. These documents, as well as the plan, will be submitted to the governments and parliaments of the republics for careful study.

But back to the issue of the joint group, it is worth mentioning that it includes Grigoriy Yavlinksiy, one of the makers of the national program and later one of the main persons in charge of the Russian program of 500 days. This makes the work on combining the two much simpler, because he knows of the intellectual potential of the national and Russian commissions for the reform and the principles on which the plans are based. We can only hope that the work of the joint commission will truly become, as Andrey Orlov said, that happiest chance to expand reform.

Poll: Gradual Introduction of Market Supported

PM0208152990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Unattributed "Poll and Sociologists' Commentary" under the rubric "Public Opinion": "Who Is For the Market?"]

[Text] The INTERFAX agency reports that at the end of June 1990 the All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion conducted a poll to ascertain the dynamics of the public's views on the economic transformations planned for the country and also to assess certain sociopolitical sentiments associated with this process.

Precisely 1,048 people living in cities and rural localities in 11 parts of the country were polled. Sociologist Vladimir Kosmarskiy will familiarize us with the poll results at the agency's request.

The poll results show that the number of supporters of the market path of development increased somewhat during June. In May, adherents of the market made up more than half (56 percent) of those polled, which was more than double the number of those who would gamble on strengthening centralized management of the economy. Now, the proportion of the first group has increased to 66 percent, while that of the second has fallen to 19 percent. At the same time two-thirds of the supporters of a market economy still believe that the transition to the market must be made gradually.

This an increase in "promarket" sentiments in society seems to have two causes.

First, there is a growing feeling that the crisis is deepening and an economic catastrophe is on its way: Precisely 69 percent of those polled believe that the situation in the economy over the next year will most likely be characterized by increasing difficulties, while a further 15 percent consider an economic catastrophe the most likely outcome. Just eight percent see hope for stabilization in the situation, and only three percent of those see polled hope for a significant improvement.

Second, the population appears to be beginning to gain a better understanding of what a market economy is. At any rate, more than half of those polled believe that the market is impossible without the emergence of small private enterprises and also the transfer of land to private ownership. Moreover, one-third (38 percent) consider its emergence unrealistic without the creation of large private enterprises.

There also appears to be growing public tolerance of such concepts as "private ownership" and "capitalist": Thus, one in every two polled (54 percent) voiced his consent to work for a private employer, while less than one-third of those polled (27 percent) replied with an unequivocal "no" to such a suggestion.

True, the population expresses readiness to become "hired workers" only on condition of a substantial rise in wages.

For the time being, the belief that the coming of the market will broaden opportunities for increased income and earnings is shared by far from everyone: Approximately 45 percent of those polled believe that their position will hardly change in this regard. But almost one-fourth of those polled (26 percent) expressed the opposite opinion.

At the same time one-fourth of the population associates fears of job losses with the market. However, twice as many of those polled (50 percent) believe that the transition to a market economy will not have any effect on their employment.

At the same time it seems to be precisely doubts about the possibility of material gain combined with a certain anxiety about the loss of a number of social guarantees, including such a very important one as guaranteed employment, that cause approximately half of those polled (49 percent) to believe that the position of the majority of ordinary people will most likely worsen on the transition to a market economy.

Western Border Crossing Allowed Until 10 Aug

LD0208195290 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The USSR Government has adopted a decision to extend only until 10 August permission to cross the USSR state border with Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia for Soviet citizens holding USSR passports with

inserts. In the future, until special instructions come from the USSR Government, the issuing of the inserts for USSR passports for entering these countries or crossing their territories in transit has been suspended. The restriction does not apply to Soviet citizens who have obtained permission to leave the USSR on foreign passports.

'Uneasy' Situation at Border

LD0208173590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] The situation at the crossing points on the USSR's western border is uneasy. The passage of Soviet citizens across that border was stopped by our government's decision of 20 July. Yet people have set off for their holidays, spending both money and time. Who will be responsible for the ruined spirits and for refunding the cost of the holiday that did not materialize? So far, not a single representative of the official authorities is reported to have met the people there who find themselves in such a situation. Yet help is needed immediately.

Pugo Discusses Party Central Control Commission

LD0208141590 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov]

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The Communist Party Central Control Commission, set up at the 28th Congress, will strive to protect the rights of Communists, the committee's chairman, Boris Pugo, told a news conference at the party Central Committee press centre.

The new party rules give the Central Control Committee wide powers, including the right to appeal any decisions of the Central Committee running counter to the party programme and rules. This is one of the main differences between the Central Control Commission and its predecessor—the party Control Committee—which was essentially one of the main arms of the party Central Committee. At the same time the wide powers of the Central Control Commission do not mean that it will be above the Central Committee. "We want to work together," Pugo said.

Asked about Communists quitting the party, which now has some 18 million members, he said that over the first six months 370,000 people turned in their party cards, and 125,000 joined the CPSU. Over the same period 250,000 were expelled, 120,000 died and 150,000 stopped paying membership dues, take no part in the activities of their party organisations but refrain from formally quitting it.

Pugo attributed the diminishing number of party members to the fact that many communists joined it out of career considerations. Their numbers differ by regions: In some regions people are not leaving the party, while in others the number of exits is significant.

"But it is not large enough to cause great concern," the chairman said. "This process is connected with the fact that the 28th Party Congress has just ended, positions have been outlined, the rules and programme statement adopted, and other parties are formed from those who quit the CPSU."

Pugo said that he did not know how many quit the party after the 28th Congress, adding that those who calculated on a mass exodus from the party were proved wrong.

"The figures are not large enough to speak about a catasrophe or an extraordinary situation in the party," he said.

Views Communists' Rights

LD0208223790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A press conference was held at the CPSU Central Control Commission [CCC]. Boris Pugo, its chairman, put forward a view to the effect that the 28th CPSU congress had become a dividing line between the party that existed before it and a new party, in essence, to which the future belongs.

Naturally, there were many questions: about whether a religious person can be a CPSU member, about party property, about the attitude to those still alive who directly participated in carrying out repressions. Boris Karlovich Pugo stressed that the CCC proceeds, first of all, from the country's current legislation. Answering questions about specific figures showing withdrawals from the party, comrade Pugo said that over the six months of this year, about 370,000 people voluntarily left the ranks of the CPSU. [Moscow in English for Great Britain and Ireland at 1900 GMT on 2 August quoted Pugo as saying that of these 370,000, 150,000 had stopped paying membership dues and 250,000 had been expelled—figures as heard] And this is a normal phenomenon because the party is ridding itself of uncommitted people and because the process of forming new parties. There were even questions about trivialities, like the time for holding meetings. The answer was unequivocal: holding of any party events during working hours is impermissible. It is clear that a two-hour press conference cannot be summed up in a short reportage. I asked Boris Karlovich what, in his view, the fundamental difference between the CCC and the former Party Control Committee was.

[Begin Pugo recording] At the 28th party congress, an absolutely new body was set up, the CCC. What is new about it? First, this is an elected party body. The new body is fundamentally different from the previous ones because it has among its representatives widely varied categories of communists. I would like to stress right away that we would not like to give the impression that the CCC should somehow stand above the Party Central Committee. No; under no circumstances. They should

work together. CCC members should have the chance to take an active part in the work of all the commissions of the Party Central Committee, in the work of the Politburo and the Secretariat, they should be able not only to criticize but also to take part in developing the most sensible proposals which communists in local primary organizations are waiting for. Protection of the rights of the communists will be a very important function of the new body. This is a very serious issue. Communists need protection, indeed, now. [end recording]

Council Adopts 'Urgent' Measures on Harvest

LD0208143990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] A session of the USSR Council of Ministers bureau was held today. One question—saving the harvest—was discussed. Urgent measures have been adopted, in particular concerning farms in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and Kazakhstan, and additional vehicles are being sent for the transportation of the harvest. A decision has also been adopted on assistance by workers' collectives and students of technical colleges and higher education establishments in vegetable and fruit picking at collective and state farms.

Deputy Minister's TV Appeal on Firearms

LD0208215990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] According to USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs data, the number of crimes of violence involving the use of firearms has gone up by 50 percent this year, reaching 3,400.

[Begin recording] [S.G. Lisauskas, deputy minister of internal affairs] There is an old army saying that even a broom will go off once a year, so it's natural that weapons will go off. So when these things happen in what is effectively a somewhat uncontrollable way, it can lead to fatal consequences.

[Correspondent] People in Armenia are very worried by rumors that weapons are arriving in Azerbaijan via Nakhichevan across the border—from Iran and Turkey, I mean.

[Lisauskas] You know, I have heard about this. I have heard accusations in Armenia that weapons are coming across the border into Azerbaijan. I have heard accusations in Azerbaijan that weapons are arriving in Armenia on planes bringing aid to the earthquake zone. For all that, no one can ever point to any specific facts; nor do we have any information of this kind. What's more, I'll tell you this. How many cases of people being disarmed have there been and how many weapons have been seized! Thousands of firearms have been seized. We frequently see this on television. And yet we have never found a single foreign weapon. So one should probably say above all in this respect that it is more a case of the situation being whipped up.

[Correspondent] Do you have any specific information about the local actions of the Armenian law-enforcement bodies?

[Lisauskas] Yes, we do have such information. The Armenian internal affairs bodies are today doing a lot of work to persuade people to disband these groups. But regrettably I will not and cannot affirm that this work is running successfully. It is not meeting with the understanding that it should.

[Correspondent] What is getting in the way?

[Lisauskas] I think that it has to blamed on the many elements which are today characteristic of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The armed groups in Armenia are basing their actions on the assertion that they face a constant threat of attack from Azerbaijan. Yes, conflicts do indeed exist, and it is probably difficult to weigh up which side has more. This is because armed conflicts come from one side, and such phenomena occur on the other side. And this—I want to use the right word—pretext, is being used to justify the armed groups. I do not rule out the possibility, however, that there are also other far-reaching goals here. Let us face the facts as they are.

But I would not like this conversation of ours to end up with us blaming everything on Armenia. Yes, there really are genuine problems there, and they have the most clear-cut problems, but the presidential decree covers the whole country and each union republic.

[Correspondent] A question on Georgia in this context. I know from operational reports that around 40 pistols were stolen in Georgia.

[Lisauskas] Yes, some pistols were stolen from a military unit, and fortunately they were returned. The press said—I think it was yesterday, or perhaps today—that they were found in a trash bin. We know that there are weapons in Georgia too. Regrettably, not all the weapons have been seized; last year, about a year ago, a whole series of attacks took place on the Ministry of Internal Affairs bodies in connection with the conflict that arose between Georgia and Abkhazia, and not all the weapons have yet been retrieved.

We are very concerned about the situation that is evolving in Armenia today. Regrettably, processes in the reverse direction are underway there. Last night two attacks were carried out in Armenia: on members of internal affairs bodies in order to disarm them, and on a Soviet Army unit, in which the criminals seized weapons. So there is probably not very much optimism that this process will be an easy one. Nevertheless, 9 August is just around the corner, and evidently if these groups are not voluntarily disbanded, the presidential decree will naturally come into force, as prescribed.

I appeal to everyone. Today, at this crucial time, when regrettably people hold a large number of weapons, when the most difficult processes of restructuring are under way, when many issues can be settled peacefully, weapons are not the best means for finding a solution. I appeal to everyone to lay down their arms and to move on to dialogue. States that previously confronted each other with thermonuclear and nuclear weapons today sit down at the negotiating table, and this is no doubt one of the main achievements of the 20th century: Missiles are being cut up, and yet here we are taking up weapons. So I appeal to the leaders of the armed groups, and the leaders of the republics, and simply to the mothers, because it is your sons who are walking around with weapons today. I appeal to you for commonsense, so that you may realize that this really is very dangerous. Do not allow a situation to flare up in which attempts are sometimes made to scare us, with talk along the lines of "let's go ahead and offer resistance," and so on. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is doing everything and will continue to do everything to ensure that all these matters are dealt with above all by peaceful methods, avoiding bloodshed. Too much blood has unfortunately already been shed in these last two years. [end recording]

Supreme Soviet Discusses New Union Treaty

LD0308103390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 3 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Issues related to the elaboration of a new Union treaty are being discussed at the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow today. Delegations from the Union Republic Supreme Soviets and representatives of the Union Supreme Soviet are attending.

CPSU's Dzasokhov Holds Press Conference 25 Jul

90UN2486A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 27 Jul 90 p 1

[Report by V. Andriyanov and V. Loginov: "The Central Committee Has No Secrets"]

[Text] **The CPSU Central Committee Press Center opened on 25 July in Moscow at the "Oktyabrskaya" Hotel. Let us make one clarification immediately: It will operate on a permanent basis. Soviet and foreign journalists will have the opportunity to meet here with members of the Central Committee Politburo, Central Committee secretaries, and other comrades.**

Anticipating the questions from the hall, A. Dzasokhov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary, himself asked the question that perhaps is the chief question today: What did the 28th CPSU Congress give the party and people?

"A brief answer: The congress confirmed the transition to a multiparty system," Aleksandr Sergeyevich said specifically. "A second important consideration is the transition to a regulated market economy based on socialist foundations. A third principle consideration is that the congress confirmed the party's loyalty to the socialist choice and the communist perspective. It is of exceptional importance for our multinational state that the congress concluded that it is necessary to support the concept of renewal of the Soviet Union—that is the fourth point."

Questions from the microphone and written questions followed. Two of the leading deputy chiefs of the CPSU Central Committee Ideological Department, G. Pryakhin (who is in charge of the press center) and A. Lebedev, were scarcely able to reply to the reporters. There were questions for A. Dzasokhov on party and state affairs, on the work of the Politburo, the Supreme Soviet, about his own enthusiasms... One foreign colleague recalled, for example, Dzasokhov's predecessors:

"I looked at today's press conference with some anxiety," he said, "and I found this pattern. Yegor Ligachev started his activity with a struggle against rock music, Vadim Medvedev with a struggle against Solzhenitsyn's books..."

"And what do you advise me to do?" interjected A. Dzasokhov, to the accompaniment of laughter throughout the hall.

When he did answer, Aleksandr Sergeyevich talked convincingly about the role of the creative intelligentsia in the life of society, and about the major personalities in the creative arts who have now been elected to the Central Committee, and the new approaches that have already been affirmed by life. Soviet citizenship has been restored to a number of major artists; an entire strata of culture lost for a generation... Our readers will also doubtless be interested to hear the answer that the Central Committee secretary gave to an American television journalist about the possible restoration of A. Solzhenitsyn's citizenship. A. Dzasokhov reminded us that the books of Aleksandr Isayevich have already been printed, in large print runs, and are enjoying great interest among readers. This is only part of a long-desired process of restoring the creators of our culture to their motherland. It seems to me, A. Dzasokhov said, that Solzhenitsyn has all the preconditions for taking advantage of our new legislative enactments and the new moral atmosphere in society.

Responding to a question about attitudes toward the statement "Democratic Platform in the CPSU" issued at the congress by some of its representatives, Aleksandr Sergeyevich noted that by no means have all possibilities been exhausted for comradely political dialogue. Today every communist should have his opinion and be given quite democratic space to realize his own reformist aspirations. The congress made a significant turn toward this, so that communists can realize these aspirations.

To judge from the questions, not everyone understood that the debate about what the CPSU will be—a vanguard party or a parliamentary party—was to a great degree far fetched. The clear-cut conclusions of the

congress notwithstanding, some people are still exaggerating the doubtful thesis that the CPSU, so it is said, almost awarded itself the role of vanguard party. In this connection, at the press conference it was again said that the party of the communists does not lay claim to any kind of special position in society. The vanguard role cannot be imposed. It can be won only through deeds.

A large group of questions touched in one form or another on the theme "the party and the working class."

"Even today the class base for the party remains the working class," A. Dzasokhov emphasized. "But we are abandoning the practice of many years whereby admission to the party was regulated from above and the number of workers and intellectuals that would be admitted was prescribed. Now all artificial barriers have been removed.... But I would like to draw your attention to this. People are leaving the party. But they are also joining the party. And if we look at the processes objectively it must be said that at this complicated time for the party people representing the most diverse social strata of society are entering its ranks."

"Workers and peasants now make up 31 percent of the CPSU Central Committee. What is the Politburo doing to enable them to participate actively in the work of the Central Committee rather than being mere 'supernumeraries', as occurred previously?" This was a question from RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA.

Expanding the framework of the theme, A. Dzasokhov talked about how the Central Committee plans to strengthen links with the party masses. In particular, it is planned to set up a standing commission of primary party organization secretaries.

"This will offer an opportunity for both the Politburo and the Secretariat to feel the pulse of life in the primary party organizations," A. Dzasokhov said. "That is one aspect. Another is that it is exceptionally important that workers and representatives of other spheres of labor elected to the Central Committee become political figures. Party workers, particularly in the leading echelon, should rid themselves completely of arrogant and bureaucratic attitudes and of the mannerism of encouraging a worker only because he happens to be a worker who finds himself among them."

And to conclude these remarks, a thought expressed by Aleksandr Sergeyevich with great conviction: "The interpretation of the party as a party of secretaries is distorted, harmful, and disparaging. Our party constitutes a large proportion of the people. Its numerical strength today is more than 18.5 million. This includes eminent figures in culture, literature, and science, designers, innovators, workers, and peasants—they are all the party!"

Chief of the CPSU Central Committee Ideological Department A. Kapto attended the press conference.

PRAVDA Publisher Views Paper Shortage Crisis

90US1142C Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jul 90 p 1

[Report on interview with V. Leontyev, director of the PRAVDA Publishing House, by A. Ivanov; place and date not given: "Readers and Publishers of All Newspapers, Unite!"]

[Text] [Ivanov] Vyacheslav Petrovich, this is a feverish time for an interview—you are a delegate to the 28th congress and director of the party publishing house, which has an intensified workload these days. But there is no point in putting off a conversation any longer. PRAVDA was given the green light during the days of the congress, while millions of subscribers to other publications, including some published at your establishment, are receiving their legitimate newspapers and magazines intermittently.

[Leontyev] Hard though it is to admit, we can observe the system of economic relations gone awry not only by looking at the empty store shelves, but, alas, at the emptying post boxes as well. We see a catastrophic lack of paper and printing capacity.

[Ivanov] But a person doesn't pay for goods he has not purchased. He has already paid for delivery of his newspaper!

[Leontyev] Do you remember the fight to get unrestricted subscriptions? This was more of a political decision (so as to avoid being rebuked for suppression of glasnost) than anything else. Restrictions on subscriptions were lifted and the government undertook certain obligations upon itself, but in reality it turns out that today it does not have at its disposal sufficient material and financial (mainly foreign currency) resources. In two years emergency reserves of paper have been "eaten up" and now we face the most difficult time—operating in the "right off the freight car" mode (and this with the responsibility our delivery people in railroad transport are well known for). Foreign firms have stopped supplying paper for OGONEK, RABOTNITSA, KRESTYANKA, and other illustrated mass publications, since debts with respect to payments of Soviet foreign trade organizations have exceeded all allowable levels.

[Ivanov] One gets the impression there is no way out—will things will get even worse?

[Leontyev] Energetic, forward-looking measures must be taken. The long-term measures are common knowledge: the creation of paper manufacturing and printing equipment production in our country, construction of pulp-paper and printing enterprises, the organization of production of about 1,500 varieties of materials and instruments—in short, all those "trifles" without which publications cannot be printed at the modern level. Printers and publishers need ink, photographic materials, special paper, fax machines... Truly, all the things we lack—they could be enumerated ad infinitum. And all of this will require billions in capital investment, and

most of this in freely convertible currency. It will take 10-15 years of intensive effort in the best case.

And then the measures to be taken today. For many years we generated millions in profits. Now the laws of the market have perceptibly affected us too. There is no sense opposing them. We must begin living, no matter how difficult it may be, by laws to which we are unaccustomed. We have to buy up paper at commercial prices in our country and abroad. We must honor our obligations to our readers.

There is more. A less popular measure. We must reduce newspaper publication by one issue per week (this will result in a 16 percent savings in paper). Incidentally, this goes along with the age-old dream of communications and printing people regarding a single day off.

Finally, we must develop and introduce an economic mechanism on an urgent basis which will provide incentives and freedom to editors and publishers as well. Yes, it is paradoxical—an intellectual product is being produced for which there is tremendous demand, but today neither we nor journalists are interested in circulation growth or profits. Can things be managed this way?

[Ivanov] The publishing business is a part of the overall party operation. This was an eternal axiom, it seemed. The CPSU monopoly, on the one hand, guaranteed its own publishing house an unclouded life; on the other hand, doesn't tomorrow cause you some alarm with the real multiparty aspect it will present?

[Leontyev] We are ready to cooperate with other parties and issue their publications. I do not see anything dramatic here.

[Ivanov] The Law on the Press goes into effect on 1 August. Will it help us and you?

[Leontyev] It is good that this law has finally been adopted. Like every law, it is somewhat incomprehensible, somewhat contradictory, and not well coordinated with other laws—with the Law on Enterprises in the USSR, for example. At the outset, difficulties are unavoidable. What good, for example, is the idea now being heard around the USSR Council of Ministers and USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee] about an announcement of unrestricted subscriptions for 1991 within the limits of allocated paper supplies? Nonetheless, a foundation has been established for editorial offices, publishing houses, printing enterprises, and communications organs for developing their relations on a uniquely fair contractual basis.

In practice this will mean that founders, editorial offices, and publishing houses will conclude contracts (mutually beneficial to the extent possible) on joint operation, taking into account the formation of market relationships.

[Ivanov] And how will market laws be felt by the chief consumer and evaluator of our work, the reader?

[Leontyev] Our road will be more difficult than, let us say, that of book publishers. The book producers have long been fulfilling the first commandment of the market—seek higher prices. Inconceivable contractual prices have arisen. Book publishers are not tied to subscriptions and establish their circulations based on realistic paper supply.

Newspaper publishers and journalists cannot extract themselves from the layering of their own contradictions. The thought of increasing prices for newspapers and magazines is looked at as that same suppression of glasnost, but through the use of economic methods. We are not accustomed to sponsorship and advertisement as a source of income, a practice seen throughout the world.

Together we must realistically seek a way out of the contradiction. On the one hand, a publication must be accessible in price. The publisher has to be concerned about this as the transmitter of certain ideas. On the other hand, newspapers and magazines are a source of income for the establishment, and herein lies the motivation to sell it at a somewhat higher price.

[Ivanov] So will prices rise?

[Leontyev] I do not have the government-level information to provide a response. But let me give you my own calculations. If the government approves the proposed new prices for paper and the new price lists for printing equipment and communications services beginning in 1991, the additional expense of publishing PRAVDA will amount to 1.1 billion rubles and the publishing house will have overall losses which exceed 450 million rubles. The losses will actually be still greater since we do not have any way of taking into account the increased costs of energy resources, growth of wages, and the increased costs of all materials. Draw your own conclusions. After all, wages must be paid. I think it would be right for the government to decide questions of price formation of periodicals, insofar as during the period of forming market relations, this will determine prices of the initial materials.

New Corporation Unites Independent Publications

PM0208132190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jul 90 First Edition p 2

[Report by N. Domov under the "PRAVDA Correspondents Report" rubric: "Journalists Unite"]

[Text] Moscow—The founding meeting of a new public organization, the Independent Information Corporation, has been held.

"Our main task," A. Yakovlev, president-elect of the corporation said, "is to combine the efforts of independent publications to avoid the diktat of ministries and departments and to report more fully and objectively to readers, radio listeners, and television viewers the events and processes taking place in the country."

All the corporation's activities will be based on mutual aid principles. In fact the new organization is a kind of ideas and resources bank which may be used by any of its members. The corporation has already begun setting up a large-scale cable television network, planning to provide 15 Soviet and foreign channels in the capital by the end of next year. Two independent radio stations will be starting up in Moscow before the end of this year and readers will receive the first issues of new newspapers.

The founders of the information corporation plan to build a press house and to set up an integrated computer and information network in Moscow. A legal consultation center serving journalists and publishing houses will also be set up. Any organization that subscribes to the corporation's statutes can become a member.

Obkom Publishing House Protests Transfer

90US1142A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 3

[Article by A. Solovyev from Tomsk: "Strike in the Publishing House"]

[Text] A session of the Tomsk Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies has resolved to transfer the KRASNOYE ZNAMYA publishing house of the CPSU Obkom [oblast party committee] to the jurisdiction of the oblast soviet and subordinate it to oblispolkom [oblast soviet executive committee] management.

It was decided to transform the printing facility into a joint enterprise of the soviet and the obkom, distributing profits and newsprint between them. In response, the collective of the publishing house conducted a 15-minute warning strike of protest.

None of the deputies expected such a sharp and swift reaction from the printers—the resolution was adopted on 2 July, and on the morning of the very next day deputies arriving for session read the strike declaration in KRASNOYE ZNAMYA. A group of deputies headed by Deputy Oblsoviet [oblast soviet] Chairman V. Shamin met with the strikers at the direction of the session.

Why the conflict?

The motives behind the deputies' resolution were to close off the channel of nontaxable deductions from publishing house profit (approximately a million per year) into the party budget and direct these funds toward satisfying the social needs of Tomsk citizens, and to set up a material base for regular publication of the oblast soviet newspaper NARODNAYA TRIBUNA and the printed newsletters of institutes of higher education and plants which were forced out of the publishing house.

The printers are not against such a change in principle, all the more so since prior to 1975 the printing equipment belonged to the oblispolkom. They are alarmed by the prospect that its return to the soviet from the obkom might destabilize current production links. Central Committee administrative office orders currently bring Tomsk uninterrupted deliveries of paper and equipment. PRAVDA publishing house orders are reliably supported (while Tomsk books are printed elsewhere...), the salary is stable, bonuses are frequent.

"And where are your guarantees?" publishing house director A. Kolchin asked the deputies. His subordinates have become accustomed to the solid protection and patronage of the obkom. Fear of change has moved them toward this conflict.

The deputies are also to blame in the misunderstanding. They discussed the resolution for almost two days and forgot to ask the opinion of publishing house workers—this is what offended the printers most of all.

Both sides were hasty in their actions. Now the deputies must return to the point from which they should have begun—to a clarification of relations with the publishing house collective.

Scholar Discusses Problems of Ethnic Kurds

LD0208161890 Moscow World Service in English
0710 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Next, our reporter supplies details about a conference of Soviet Kurds that was held here in Moscow recently.

[Reporter] [passage omitted] At present a total of 160,000 Kurds are scattered over nine Soviet republics, which in the view of Dr. (Nadir Nadirov), chairman of the conference's organizing committee, is unnatural and leading to the loss of ethnic culture, language, and traditions. the view is shared by the prominent Kurdish scholar Dr. Shakrov Gayan, who describes it as the chief problem facing Soviet Kurds.

[Gayan], in Russian fading into English translation] (?Different) opportunities are open to Kurds living in different parts of the Soviet Union. Kurdish culture is more or less alive in Georgia and Armenia. In Armenia, for example, there is a Kurdish newspaper and there are daily 90-minute radio broadcasts in the ethnic language. There are schools teaching in Kurdish. But in Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, and Kirghizia, nothing of the kind is available to Kurds.

[Announcer] Why? One may wonder. Is it because of religion? Most of the Kurds are Muslims; Armenia is a Christian republic, whereas Central Asia is largely Islamic. More from Dr. Shakran Gayan:

[Gayan] I Don't think religious considerations are decisive to clashes of the interests of various ethnic groups. The whole thing is more likely to be rooted in unresolved social problems.

[Reporter] What ways have been suggested for dealing with Kurdish problems? Some conference delegates proposed restoring the once-abolished autonomous region

on Azerbaijani territory, where all Soviet Kurds might come to live. But others dismissed the project as unrealistic in view of the present political and ethnic tensions in the Caucasus. The conference passed a resolution suggesting the following set of measures: to set up a Kurdish Autonomous entity in Azerbaijan or another southern region; open schools for Kurdish children where there aren't any; restore the Latin alphabet, which the Soviet Kurds used until 1945; and grant the refugee status to the Kurds that fled their homes.

Law Enforcers Set Up Independent Trade Union

LD0208141890 Moscow TASS in English 0959 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—Moscow militia officers and other law enforcement workers have set up an independent trade union, the MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper reports today.

The new organisation will be part of the Sotsprof independent socialist trade unions.

Sotsprof includes 116 territorial trade unions in 36 cities, which are independent of official trade unions.

The new organisation will protect its members from the administration's arbitrariness.

Primakov Marks Airborne Troops' 60th Anniversary

LD0208200290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Excerpts] A festival of the military sport of parachuting was held at Tushino today. It was devoted to the 60th anniversary of the airborne troops. Paratroopers and sportsmen from the Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy took part in it. [passage omitted]

The Tushino festival was attended by Primakov, member of the Presidential Council: Dzasokhov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; a USSR deputy minister of defense; and representatives of Soviet, Party, and public organizations.

Gorbachev Expresses Thanks for Congratulations

PM0208132590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Second Edition p 1

[Message from USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev; date of message not given: "Thanks for the Congratulations"]

[Text] I have been congratulated on my election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee at the 28th party congress by party, trade union, youth, veterans, and other public organizations, labor collectives, and many Soviet people—communists and nonparty people. Congratulations have also been received from the leaders of political parties, organizations, and individual citizens in foreign countries.

I am sincerely touched and grateful for the kind sentiments and wishes expressed in them. It is particularly gratifying that deep interest in the success of perestroyka and understanding of how important this is both for our country and the world are evident in the letters and telegrams sent me.

In exercising the rights and the potential vested in the state and party posts which I occupy, I will make every effort to overcome the present difficulties, to advance resolutely along the path of deep political and economic reforms, and to renew the whole life of society.

[Signed] M. Gorbachev

Gorbachev Donates TV to Social Services Center

PM0308103390 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "From the USSR President"]

[Text] On instructions from USSR President M.S. Gorbachev, a television set, received as a memento during the official visit by PRC State Council Premier Li Peng to the USSR, has been handed over to Social Service Center No. 1.

This Moscow center gives social assistance to war and labor veterans and invalids. Many of them are without the support of relatives and loved ones.

Comparison of CPSU Politburo Resolution

PM0108091790

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 1 August 1990 carries in its Second Edition on pages 1-2 an unattributed report on an undated CPSU Central Committee Politburo session discussing the results of the 28th CPSU Congress. The PRAVDA item, entitled "At the CPSU Central Committee Politburo," has been compared with the with the Moscow Domestic Russian version published in the 1 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT under the headline "Politburo Issues Resolution on CPSU Congress, pages 28-29, revealing the following variations:

Page 28, column two, paragraph two, only sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...the Union republics, all party organizations, and people's deputies who are CPSU members are called on... (rewording)

Same column, paragraph three, sentence two, PRAVDA reads: ...deemed important to ensure regular speeches by members... (rewording)

Same column, paragraph five, sentence two, PRAVDA reads: ...conferences promote perestroyka in the activities of... (rewording)

Economic

Greater Internal Use of Hard Currency Seen

90UF0334A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with O. Mozhayskov, chief of the Hard Currency and Economic Administration of the USSR State Bank, by IZVESTIYA correspondent M. Berger; place and date not given: "An Offensive Against the Ruble"]

[Text] **IZVESTIYA has repeatedly touched upon the issue of the invasion of the monetary circulation of our country by foreign currencies ("The Unloved Ruble," No. 80; "The Ruble and the Dollar," No. 170, 1990). In particular, the last publication said that the government is planning to expand the use of foreign currency on Soviet territory. O. Mozhayskov, chief of the Hard Currency and Economic Administration of the USSR State Bank, in an interview with an IZVESTIYA correspondent discusses what the further oppression of our national currency by its issuing state is fraught with.**

[Berger] Oleg Vladimirovich, as we have learned the government is considering two draft resolutions: on perfecting retail trade and providing services for foreign currency on the territory of the USSR, and on organizing wholesale trade in domestically produced goods in great demand for the hard currency funds of enterprises and organizations which will actually legalize the extensive circulation of foreign currency as tender for goods and services. Could it be that there is nothing bad about relegating the ruble to the status of a second-rate currency within our country in this manner? We sort of take as an unavoidable given the fact that it is treated with contempt abroad. Incidentally, the drafts in question start with the words "...with a view to further stimulating the development of foreign economic operations and drawing additional hard currency resources into circulation...."

[Mozhayskov] Unfortunately, the leadership of the Council of Ministers displays its readiness to take such measures with amazing ease, and as far as I know regards them as an open and shut case. As I see it, hard currency put in internal circulation will undermine even further our ruble, which is weak to begin with, and will certainly do nothing to promote the reinforcement of monetary circulation in our country. It will rather do the opposite. What will they sell for hard currency? Naturally imported goods and those domestic products that are of some interest to consumers. In this manner a substantial segment of imported and domestically produced goods will be withheld from regular trade. It is also understood that most Soviet enterprises will strive to sell their goods and services for hard currency rather than rubles. Given their growing independence and continuing monopolistic practices, "dollarization" may become extensive and uncontrollable.

[Berger] Judging by some signs, it is already too late to use the future tense. Increasingly, many organizations which exploit their monopolistic positions demand hard currency instead of rubles. For example, Aeroflot has stopped transporting foreigners inside the country for rubles. Recently, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet sent reminders to hotel managers to the effect that the Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet has forbidden lodging foreign citizens in the hotels of the Moscow City Executive Committee for rubles. This document said that all ministries and departments without exception—as well as all joint enterprises, cooperatives, funds, associations, various unions, and so on—MUST pay for the stay of foreigners only in freely convertible currencies.

[Mozhayskov] The Moscow City Executive Committee has absolutely no right to establish rules for monetary circulation and introduce bans or instructions to accept or not to accept specific bills. This is the exclusive prerogative of the supreme executive power—the Union government. Technically, the decision of the Moscow City Executive Committee in question should be the subject for a protest by the procurator. After all, the economy will be thrown into complete disarray if every executive committee establishes rules for monetary circulation as it sees fit. For example, it may turn out soon that one may travel through the territory of Kievskiy Rayon only if he pays several dollars.... Why not? They may up and decide so; after all the rayon needs currency, does it not?

[Berger] There is also another problem involved which is not entirely that of money. It is common knowledge that many international contacts of a business, cultural, and public nature depended on the opportunity for our organizations, which are hard currency-poor now, to receive a foreign partner paying his way with rubles. Now that this opportunity has been eliminated, many contacts promising eventual hard currency profits are going to be undermined, including business contacts. Quite a few foreign guests will be unwilling to pay world market prices in our hotels with our kind of service. Therefore, the Moscow City Executive Committee will hardly get the amount of hard currency it is counting on.

In general, the number of those who demand dollars instead of rubles has been growing from one hour to the next. A "businesslike" attitude is very widespread.

[Mozhayskov] It should be said that such an attitude is probably stimulated by the quite definite intention of the government to draw more hard currency into circulation.

[Berger] In general, one gets the impression that they are just abandoning the ruble as a hopelessly sick person, pinning their hopes on being rescued by foreign currencies.

[Mozhayskov] Those who count on reinforcing our financial management in this manner are deluding themselves. The ruble is losing its function and meaning because its purchasing power is declining catastrophically. All the people will demand that at least some of

their labor be paid for in hard currency, which is fair in principle from the point of view of equal pay for equal work. In the event these demands are not met—it is altogether impossible to meet all of them—a pick-up in the strike movement is quite probable. The black market will not be eliminated as the authors of the government drafts expect. As the similar recent experience of Poland shows, the black market will become even more vigorous as a result.

The creation of an extensive system of trade for hard currency actually creates dual monetary circulation in the country and makes it impossible for the USSR State Bank to ensure the stability of the national currency unit. Moreover, we get further away from a market economy rather than draw closer to it along this path. Under closer scrutiny, the system of hard currency trade inside the country as it is proposed amounts to a variety of state trade monopoly with its inherent features, such as privileges and the absence of competition.

[Berger] There is an intriguing provision in the draft according to which the sale of goods and services on the territory of the USSR for freely convertible currencies is an export operation. How is this to be interpreted?

[Mozhayskov] As an attempt to palm off a fish as a fowl. It is beyond me how straight brokerage activities involving the sale of imported goods inside the country may be considered exports. These are imports pure and simple, and nothing else.

[Berger] What about goods made in our country?

[Mozhayskov] We may call these operations whatever we like. However, the influx of hard currency to the country will not increase due to such sales. It is hard to understand how we can make ends meet in our balance of payments given this approach.

The Gossnab [State Committee for Material and Technical Supplies] also wants to sell the products of Soviet plants for hard currency. It is expected that it will receive specially earmarked output for production and technical purposes for wholesale trade for hard currency. The objective is purely departmental in this instance, and it is as plain as can be: To reinforce the administrative-command methods of management under the guise of developing market relations, as well as to increase hard currency proceeds by using the distributive and brokerage functions of the Gossnab.

Imagine an enterprise manufacturing goods in short supply; this is what most of our enterprises are doing. Why strive for the world market and improve the quality and competitiveness of its products if it will suffice to push them through to the so-called "internal hard currency market?" In turn, the hard currency profit of such enterprises will be accumulated by means of the multiple redistribution of proceeds secured mostly through the exports of oil and gas.

[Berger] Is what you have said to suggest that hard currency trade on the territory of our country is unacceptable in any form? After all, we cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that the issue was brought to life by the weakness of the ruble and an attempt to draw on real money with which the needed goods may be purchased. Meanwhile, the ruble does not perform this function.

[Mozhayskov] Indeed the position of the ruble is unenviable, but this is exactly why it needs to be reinforced in every way possible rather than undermined, as is the case at present. In principle, we should strive for the ruble to be the only legal tender in the country. The goods in great demand which the Gossnab has been eying greedily should be auctioned, and the ruble- denominated proceeds should later be used to buy hard currency at hard currency auctions. In general, the right to freely hold, buy, and sell foreign currency should be ensured not only for enterprises but also for citizens, and the use of foreign currency inside the country should be restricted sharply at the same time. This is the only way to come closer to creating a regular currency market which is an integral part of a market economy.

To be sure, initially the rate of exchange is likely to be close to that in the black market. However, these are the necessary costs which in principle can be eliminated.

Therefore a solution to the problem lies in developing a free market of foreign currencies rather than in creating a market of goods freely sold for these currencies.

Agricultural

Council of Ministers Reviews Harvest Problems

Harvest 'Slowdown' Studied

LD0208175490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A meeting of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers was held today. Speakers at the meeting noted that, according to preliminary estimates, farmers ought to gather no less than 260 million tonnes of grain. A bumper harvest of this size has not been obtained for a long time.

The rural workers are unable to gather the harvest in the target time which has been set. About 2 million tonnes are being lost daily because of the slowdown in the pace of harvesting. The present difficulties are linked, first and foremost, with the fact that there has been a large shortfall in the number of mechanics provided to the countryside by the towns. Twenty percent of the combines are standing idle because they do not have drivers. The situation as regards the vegetable harvest is particularly difficult. Reports are already coming in to the effect that farm leaders have been forced to plow their vegetables back in because they could not wait for assistance from the towns.

The present harvest has exposed yet another miscalculation. It has transpired that the elevators are not ready to take in the large mass of bread-grain. Railwaymen have come to the assistance of grain procurement workers, but the railways ministry is also working at the limit of its capacity.

Gusev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Ryzhkov, secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; and Kolpakov, minister of metallurgy who spoke at the meeting of the Presidium, called for the declaration of a state of emergency in the country for the duration of the harvest. Reviewing the results of the meeting, Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov said that there is, of course, no need to take things as far as extraordinary measures, but decisive steps are indispensable. Greater demands also need to be made of leaders at all levels involved in the fate of the harvest.

A report on the meeting of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers will be screened after the "Vremya" program.

'Heated' Discussion Reported

LD0208225590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1742 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] [Announcer] Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, having returned from his trip to the Saratov Oblast of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] and the Uralsk Oblast of Kazakhstan, where bringing in the harvest is taking place intensively, today held a sitting of the Presidium of the country's Council of Ministers. Under discussion was the fundamental issue of the day: bringing in the harvest and measures to provide help to the countryside for it to be completed successfully. The discussion was, one might say, heated. The whole country is now concerned about the bringing in and preserving the wealth created by people and by nature. From these standpoints those taking part in the sitting examined issues concerning comprehensive support for the workers of the countryside. The first to speak was Vladlen Valentinovich Nikitin, chairman of the State Commission of the Council of Ministers for Food and Procurements.

[Begin recording] [Nikitin] The assessment of the specialists: There are 300 million tonnes of grain that have ripened in the country today; 300 million tonnes of grain. And natural losses during harvesting—normal and average annual losses averaged out? The capabilities of our people and our harvesting machinery permit the loss of say 30 to 40 million tonnes. Those are the average losses. There's no getting away from them, as they say. A realistic figure for the grain that it is possible to produce today is 260, 260 million tonnes by the conventional count, weighed in the hopper. I would remind you that the average figure for the past few years has been about 210 million tonnes and we have purchased 44 million tonnes of bread grain. There are no possibilities for purchasing; we are already not buying. One thing only remains: We either reduce the level at which food is supplied by 20-25 percent or we mobilize ourselves and bring in the harvest.

What is our attitude toward this harvest today? There is not a sufficient quantity of mechanizers in the countryside because every year one million people leave the countryside for various reasons, but mainly because of the lack of social provision. Every year industry helps the countryside with mechanizers for the period of the harvest. We have seen, and Nikolay Ivanovich saw this for himself, how secretaries of party committees are sitting on the combines, chairmen of trade union committees are there, specialists are there, those who drive private motor cars are sitting there. Everyone who can—that is to say even doctors—everyone who is able has been mobilized and sat on a combine.

In many cases the town has not provided the mechanizers. Today, therefore, approximately 20 percent of the grain-harvesting combines that are ready for work and are repaired stand idle. The same thing is happening with regard to the vegetable harvest today, comrades. All this used to be calculated; today this is based on the former count, but 700,000 people used to work every day in our country on the vegetable harvest during the ripening period, 700,000. Today the maximum figure is put at 150,000 people. Throughout the country. Throughout the Union. From the factories. Today things are getting into such an absurd state that leaders of the oblast executive committees are coming to the Russian Government and saying: Adopt decisions so we can send people. That is to say, in many instances the new power in the localities has not yet put itself to work and is not influencing in any way the solution of these issues. I would not like to say everywhere, but it is like that in many cases.

Party power has moved away from these matters. In the past a great deal depended upon that. Today neither the new Soviets are going to be able to control this, nor are the economic leaders. The economic leaders, in other words, are letting this matter slip.

The second issue that is holding things back—I will begin again with the grain production—is carrying away the grain.

[Ryzhkov] To give you some idea of what is being done with the transport, this is what Comrade Kolenichenko writes from Orenburg. Esteemed Nikolay Ivanovich! This is the second time I am writing to you—he did indeed write to me a week ago—and I do so because of the hopelessness of the situation. The impression one is getting is that no one wants the bread grain. A large quantity of grain is building up in the rain because of the shortage of transport. The harvest is only just beginning. If we are suffering losses even at this stage it is not difficult to imagine what is going to happen later. Your instructions for 2,000 vehicles to be sent from the Army have not been carried out. The decision of the Russian

Government concerning Leningrad is not being implemented. Of 4,000 vehicles—I think it is the case that this decision was made by Russia, is it not, Gennadiy Vasilyevich?—1,700 have been dispatched. No more are promised. Please find an additional 3,000 vehicles in our state. The bread-grain growers of the Orenburg Oblast will bring in no less than 6 million tonnes of grain. Immediate action is needed. Please intervene personally. This is signed: Comrade Kolenichenko, chairman of the oblast soviet and first secretary.

That is one of the telegrams and there are two bundles of similar ones.

[Nikitin] There have been forty in the last few days. Over the past three days there have been forty.

[Ryzhkov] So, two bundles of telegrams of similar content in two days.

[Nikitin] Comrade Kulik has just reported to me that some military vehicles have been sent there on your instructions: They are coming from East Europe, they are on the way and they will get there. Many are still not making use of their own capacities. In the field of motor transport, you can still put in a minimum of 50,000 trucks today, Nikolay Ivanovich, but they remain standing by the fence because of the shortage of rubber, because they have no accumulators and some other spare parts. There is a request here from Nikolay Andreyevich that help be given with spare parts.

The same applies to grain combine harvesters, and especially to fuel. What we have is an altogether strange picture. This applies more to the regions; I believe the permanent representatives are here. Resources were allocated to agriculture in full by the government with a two to three percent rise from last year. Agriculture did not receive them in the half year, while industry and all other consumers were allotted 75 percent. The gulf widened particularly in July. In July alone there was a shortfall of 130,000 tonnes of petrol and 500,000 tonnes of diesel. All other consumers got everything. Such treatment...

[Ryzhkov, interrupting] [Words indistinct] it comes from the Ukraine. Most telegrams concerning fuel come from the Ukraine.

[Nikitin] The final matter which is holding things back, especially regarding vegetables... I would single out another two matters which are having a negative influence today on the provision of vegetables to the towns. One is packaging—there is at least a third less packaging today than we need. We checked all the figures today, Pavel Ivanovich. They come primarily to 200,000 [units not given] in wooden packaging or timber, and 2,500 million standard jars of glass packaging, the latter for preserving vegetables and the former for transporting them.

The last thing: Nikolay Ivanovich, Uzbekistan has brought 2,500 tonnes of vegetables to Moscow since the 25th. After Yuriy Mikhaylovich's intervention, they sold 1,000 tonnes nonetheless, but 1,500 are still lying around today, no one is going up to the wagons and taking them. Evidently, there is somebody to whom these vegetables do not matter, and I have asked all the judicial and legal services to get involved in this work.

[Ryzhkov] Comrade Pugin, Nikolay Andreyevich. I should like to ask a representative of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives to brief us. Comrade Kuzmichev is here, is he not? Please brief us on what is being done in your department, especially with regard to fruit and vegetables. Go ahead.

[N.A. Pugin, USSR minister of automotive and agricultural machine building] Esteemed comrades, machine builders are also very glad, as are workers in the agrarian sector, that a good harvest is growing in the country, because we believe we are all tackling together one common task: We are guaranteeing the country's food program. In general, I have said this to state that automotive and agricultural machine-building enterprises have been approaching this work with such responsibility all year. I should like to report to the presidium that we have ensured supplies of absolutely all types of machines during the period under review, including automotive and agricultural machine-building. Our shortfall in supplies amounts to a small number of corn-harvesting machines, 389 of them.

[Ryzhkov] We have different data that your indebtedness to the countryside is very high. Let us look into it after this conference.

[Pugin] We have looked into it several times.

[Ryzhkov] We must look into it seriously. I should like to request Comrade Lushkov, Yuriy Mikhaylovich—I believe he is here—to brief us on the situation in Moscow. Go ahead.

[S.M. Kuzmichev, first deputy chairman of Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives] Nikolay Ivanovich, consumers' cooperatives consider themselves a component of the country's agro-industrial complex, so they are striving to participate in this process everywhere—in general, they embrace the whole territory of the country—and actively. We are grateful to the government, and to you personally, that the decision which examined the matter of the activity of consumers' cooperatives was adopted in May. Many of our urgent requests were resolved, they are helping us to...

[Ryzhkov, interrupting] Let us get closer to the point. What is the purpose in us bestowing profuse expressions of gratitude on each other? The question today is how to gather in the harvest. You play first fiddle here, as they say, in fruit vegetables. Tell us what you are doing. Whenever I have dealings with the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives, I am told: We are fulfilling the plan. But surely the plan is not the point? Fruit and vegetables have to be gathered in today; that is the point. It has nothing to do with the plan.

[Kuzmichev] Fine. I will not talk about the figures which now actually... [changes thought] we have overfulfilled our commitments by 70 percent so far, but they are not necessary today. At present we have organized 50,000 permanent reception and procurement centers and we have set up 60,000 temporary ones. In practice, even by using them three times, perhaps we can ensure reception and forwarding of output which comes from both the population and the farms.

We have 50,000 non-mobile reception and procurement points and 60,000 temporary ones set up. Practically, if we use them even perhaps three times, we can receive and put through the produce coming both from the population and from the farms. At the present time we have concluded 12 million contacts.

[Ryzhkov] Tell me, what do peaches cost now in Uzbekistan?

[Kuzmichev] Well, I think in Uzbekistan peaches are about four rubles [R]. But, Nikolay Ivanovich...

[Ryzhkov, interrupting] Wait, wait. Let us see what you are up to. You were asked how much peaches cost and you say about R4. Comrade Nikitin, we have checked; they are R1.5. One and one-half rubles. Bringing them to Moscow by air costs 60 kopeks per kilogram. Two rubles, 10 kopeks. In Saratov, they sell peaches at the market for R6 and 50 kopeks. So can you explain why you do not bring the prices down? Why? Well, even supposing they cost R2.5 in Saratov and in Moscow, today they are asking R6.5 for a kilogram because you are not competitive. You are nowhere to be seen.

[Kuzmichev] Well, Nikolay Ivanovich, in the first place our main quota is set....

[Ryzhkov, interrupting] What has the quota got to do with it? Listen...

[Kuzmichev, interrupting] No, the quota, in the first place and in general, solves all the major problems. [as heard] Let us put it this way: peaches [words indistinct] and tomatoes, (?Aleksandr Pavlovich), and all the produce that costs in Uzbekistan—that is for their own—there are two prices in force, the government there had decided, for their own requirements. That is one thing. [voice from hall says: ...much cheaper than at the market.] They don't sell them to the procurement organizations at the prices they charge in the market.

[Ryzhkov] That is interesting: They sell them in the market but they will not sell them to you. Buy them in the market in Uzbekistan and bring them to Moscow or bring them to Saratov. Take them to Magadan. Good, that is all. Comrade Luzhkov.

[Luzhkov] I should like to report one or two matters to Nikolay Ivanovich on the situation that is developing in Moscow in this complex of problems. Our work takes in several areas: participation in bringing in the harvest with the help of motor transport and allocation of students and workers to tasks connected with the harvesting of vegetables, not only already now in Moscow Oblast but in other oblasts; and internal problems in ensuring a supply of vegetables to the cities; and a whole number of other matters.

Well, I would like to say that today the situation in Moscow regarding the provision of fruit and vegetable production is turning out worse than last year.

[Kulik, G.V., first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers] So Norilsk is working energetically. The Tyumen North is working energetically. I want to say the Magadan people are working energetically. The rest, so far and for a number of reasons, including perhaps also the price issue, although I do think we set such a task so that consumer cooperation of this production could then trade simply at the market at increased prices, without connecting this problem with urban trade, for us somehow, so to speak, to simply satiate it with production. [as heard] So we are arriving at the conclusion that we must once more look at our fruit and vegetable complex and make it more economically viable. I think the question will also arise of the creation of trade intermediary cooperatives, including for the delivery and purchasing of fruit and vegetable produce. So anyway, this concerns next season, but people are worrying now. You are correct here. Nikolay Ivanovich, I do not know, but by taking advantage of such a situation is it possible to introduce a state of emergency in the country for 60 days? I do not know what to call it. You cannot do it, Nikolay Ivanovich. Do not get me wrong, I have received... [changes thought] I simply could not omit to mention this today, particularly since the public is watching, as it were. Here, for instance, I have been sent a request from Sverdlovsk Oblast executive committee asking us in the Council of Ministers to adopt a decision making it binding on industrial enterprises to assign people to harvest work.

[Ryzhkov] Well, then the people of Sverdlovsk....

[Kulik, interrupting] Nikolay Ivanovich, please understand, this is the state people have gotten into now. You know, we have been visiting and talking to many labor collectives. You must not believe that the workers do not want to do harvest work. This is not the case, Nikolay Ivanovich.

[Ryzhkov] I saw this for myself yesterday at the aviation works. The picture really is quite different. It is the workers who want to go there, and I do not believe the working class is up in arms and does not wish to do harvest work. I do not believe this.

I suggest we finish our discussion of this issue. I think now is not the time for long meetings or long speeches but for decisions. The fact we have come together today to review the results, as it were, of the start of the harvesting campaign now under way in the country, I think this is absolutely timely and we must now take some very definite and clear decisions to put things to

rights. I repeat again: We have an unprecedented harvest, there is a very good harvest growing, and we have to bring it in. Unless we do bring in this harvest today what use are all of us sitting here and indeed the local bodies of government? We are always complaining about the weather—that the weather has prevented us from growing a good harvest—but now God has given us a harvest, so to speak, and we cannot manage to bring it in. This will actually be a test of what we really are capable of. I do not mean what those sitting here specifically are capable of, but the whole of society. What are we capable of, or does it not matter what kind of a harvest we have because it will be left in the fields to rot anyway.

So we have to take decisions, and the main thing is that the decisions adopted must be firmly implemented. I think the moment has come for us to be harsh in demanding fulfillment from people irrespective of person, position, or social status and, if you will forgive me, perhaps sometimes even disregarding the criticism coming from left and right. Today we must bring the crop in, that is the chief task. Afterward we can write articles and convince one another of where we went wrong and what happened where. The chief task is, of course, to bring it in, and second to purchase grain for state resources. So far we have purchased only one quarter of the estimates of the volumes we should have. We have to purchase 85 million tonnes of grain for the state resources, and you know that it's from state resources that all the food grain comes, in other words, all the food plus a certain amount of mixed fodder.

[Ryzhkov] Very little has been said here today about fodder procurement; the situation in this respect is worse than last year. Today we have sort of circumvented the problem, but unless we put things right we may end up in difficult... great difficulties await us.

Finally, fruit and vegetable farming. As of 28 July 350,000 tonnes less vegetables had been purchased than last year, and 70,000 tonnes less fruit and berries. There was a shortfall in delivery of fruit and vegetables to retail outlets of almost R1,000 million. That is the situation so far.

What decisions do we have to adopt? First, I think that regarding machinery, without vehicles we shall not hold out, especially Russia and Kazakhstan. They, of course, will not make it. We have to make the decision today. I think we ought to support the proposals of those ministers, Comrade Pugin and others, Comrade Kolpakov, who have proposed that 10-15 percent of vehicles belonging to state enterprises—all enterprises and organizations—be immediately assigned to the harvest along with their drivers.

Tomorrow, no later than tomorrow, Vladilen Valentinovich, I think a document must be signed placing everyone under an obligation to carry out this instruction. Second, we will resolve the issue with the Ministry of Defense. I was talking with Comrade Yazov this morning. He is working on the matter of from where the vehicles together with their military drivers can be taken. I think we will give further definite help by the Ministry of Defense regarding the additional supply of vehicles from the military units.

Regarding the combines and spare parts, a great deal has been said about this today, and even more was said in the fields of the Saratov Oblast and in the fields of Kazakhstan. There are no accumulators. Combines are standing idle. There are no belts. There are no spare parts. I have already said that people are working from five and six o'clock in the morning; they do not leave until one o'clock in the morning. They immediately grab two or three hours' sleep and again begin working. Surely we are going to find the strength to provide everything to enable them to work properly in the corn fields at this time. They are striving to do so. Today no one is urging them on. You understand. If we are urging each other on, we are sitting here and campaigning; there no one is doing any urging. They really are working themselves, as the saying goes. No one is breathing down their necks.

The second issue is that of involving the population, involving the labor collectives in the harvest, particularly the harvest of fruit and vegetable produce. I think the ministers, the leaders of our departments must today immediately talk to all enterprises and organizations and lay down conditions, lay down requirements. I do not want to declare a state of emergency of any kind here today... but absolute requirements of the government. [as heard] Each enterprise must provide as many people as are needed. Therefore there can be no other decision here. We make fulfilment of this instruction binding and please work with the labor collectives, work with the directors of the enterprises.

Regarding students, I would ask comrades today to work together with the ministry, with the State Committee for Education, and determine things so that within one or two days we can adopt an appropriate decision on the students. I think we must appeal to the students that the time has come today when they have to help, to help the state, to help the people of the countryside. We will not get by without them. We will not live today without them.

I think we also support the proposals of the comrades who say we now have to involve the servicemen in the unloading and transportation. I think we have to do some proper work with the Ministry of Defense, with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and with other organizations.

The final point, comrades. I would ask the mass information bodies—we have invited many representatives of our newspapers today and television has recorded all of our discussions—and I would ask the comrades to make a certain tilt: Sort it out for yourselves. What needs to be said today? What objective should the people be set for today? What problems need to be raised today? We ask you very seriously, we ask the mass information media to

help, to help with the harvest today. Help the countryside. If we help the countryside we will be helping ourselves. We will ensure food supplies.

This is the point where I would like to end the sitting of the presidium. All the best to you. [end recording]

Ryzhkov Interviewed on Harvest-Related Problems

LD0208165790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1350 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Interview with USSR Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov by station correspondent Semen Astakhov in Moscow on 2 August—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Today there was a session of the Bureau of the USSR Council of Ministers. Measures were discussed for saving the harvest. Immediately after the session our correspondent Semen Astakhov invited Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov to the microphone. Listen to a recording of the interview:

[Ryzhkov] We especially raised today the question of harvest affairs. For two days I have been in Saratov Oblast. I also flew to a rayon in Uralsk Oblast, Kazakhstan, and we were convinced that there are many unsolved problems although the general mood is to my liking. Everyone is glad that a good harvest has been grown, and now it definitely has to be gathered in. So yesterday, while in Saratov Oblast, I rang here and said that at 1100 today the Presidium should be gathered in order to go into the facts while they are hot.

[Astakhov] So, Nikolay Ivanovich, the mood is good, but nevertheless the peasants—to use a blanket term, the agricultural workers—are annoyed at the townsfolk for being so bad at helping them.

[Ryzhkov] I think there are some major problems which need to be solved. If we do not solve them we may really not gather everything that nature has given us, so to speak, and that human labor has given us. First, we must help with motor transport; Russia needs it and so does Kazakhstan. And today a decision was adopted on 10-15 percent of the available motor transport of enterprises immediately—in the course of two to three days—being sent to the regions where harvesting is now being carried out. I think this is an obligation of the labor collectives. Second, of course without the help of people, without the help of the town, and without the help of the students of technical colleges and institutes, we will not be able to manage, particularly as regards fruit and vegetable output. The situation there is very complicated. If in grain production there are mechanisms at work, there the productivity is high and material resources have to be provided.

[Astakhov] There there is the least level of manual labor.

[Ryzhkov] Yes, things are mechanized there and there is confidence. If the weather is good and if we continuously watch the material and technical resources, they will cope. But they will not cope in the fruit and vegetable sector. This is completely obvious and all the people need to be roused. Therefore we have adopted a firm decision today until the economic mechanisms are worked through—they will be worked through, but this will require time of course. All the people need to be roused today, all the labour collectives, all the townsfolk, so that they can go out into the fields. We'll look later on at who is right, who is to blame, and what we haven't done enough work on. But it is not the time today.

[Astakhov] We must save the harvest in order to ultimately feed ourselves.

[Ryzhkov] Of course. You see the peasant, as I see it, has provided for himself. He is provided with both fruits and vegetables.

[Astakhov] But, you understand, he is not a Samoyed!

[Ryzhkov] But of course. He provides for himself, but you see the town will be left without vegetables and without fruit.

[Astakhov] In my view this is what the townsfolk don't understand.

[Ryzhkov] I think that recently the traditions which we had before, when at a certain time it was necessary to go out into the fields to help, when as they say they all helped together, have somewhat... [changes thought] Today, to a certain degree, all of this is shifting onto the economic side. I think that there is also speculation. Taking place...

[Astakhov, interrupting] Hiding behind financial autonomy?

[Ryzhkov] Of course, it is being concealed. We talked to many workers and they said: We understaand that it is necessary to go. It is altogether amoral to plow in what we have created. You see.

[Astakhov] Reports are already coming in that vegetables are being plowed into the soil in the Far East.

[Ryzhkov] Well, yesterday morning I was at a state farm not far from the town of Engels. The chairman of the collective farm said: If in one more week nothing changes I'll start plowing over the soil. He added: You must understand, I'm terrified of even giving that order. People come up to me who produced the harvest and they cry in front of me. How can it be: how can they behave like this? They're simply not in a position to gather [the harvest].

[Astakhov] Another question: The state farm director needs to prepare the soil for the next harvest. We should now be thinking about 1991.

[Ryzhkov] He already has a certain amount of technology.

[Astakhov] You see, the peasants work with living organisms and biological laws. If you do not sow the peas today you will not get them next year.

[Ryzhkov] Yes, so that one can understand them, and I understand them, and he is doing this not because he wants to somehow conceal all of this. That is not the point. He can see that he needs to start plowing even while vegetables are still in the fields and no one is doing anything with them. The farmers have been saying with great bitterness: We know that the working class is striving to come, and at the same time there are certain obstacles that are stopping them from coming. They are creating the conditions. I do not think that at the present time there are no economic conditions at all. I have been told by the managers of the enterprises, the collective and state farms: Well, we are creating a system; first what they earn, and second they are getting vegetables from us—the same vegetables at low prices—and they are taking them for themselves and for their families. They are laying in a stock of vegetables. That is to say, certain conditions are being created.

[Astakhov] Nikolay Ivanovich, let us hope that the townspeople will nevertheless understand and come to the help of the peasants in order to reduce the harvest—the bumper harvest that has been grown.

[Ryzhkov] I am above all relying on the ethics of our individuals. After all, we all at some time in the final analysis originated from the peasantry. It may be the first, second, or fifth generation, but we all originated from them. Therefore, we need to help them and we are very much relying on the townspeople. For our part I must say that we shall be firmly implementing those decisions that we have adopted today. We shall not come to a halt. It is better, as they say, for us to part with two or three leaders than to place the whole harvest under threat.

Nikitin Interviewed on Harvest-Related Problems

LD0308102490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Telephone interview with V.V. Nikitin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, by unidentified studio announcer, from the "Vremya" newscast—live]

[Text] [Announcer] As we have already reported, a sitting of the presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers has taken place in Moscow. It discussed the progress of the harvest in the country. According to preliminary estimates, the farmers should bring in no less than 260 million tonnes of grain. But the situation now is such that the harvest has to be saved. Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov stressed yesterday at the sitting that higher demands, as regards keeping the harvest intact, must be made of leaders at every level who are involved in this important business.

Today Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov signed the documents which provide for urgent measures to save the harvest. We have asked Vladilen Valentinovich Nikitin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to talk about these measures in our program by telephone, as the event took place literally a few minutes ago. He should now be at the other end of the line. Hello?

[Nikitin] Yes, yes.

[Announcer] Good day, Vladilen Valentinovich. We are on the air. Please say a few words about the specific measures.

[Nikitin] All right. There was a sitting of the presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers yesterday which concluded that harvesting work is being very much held back by the shortage of transport and of people. The grain-producing regions of the Volga, the Urals, western Siberia, and Kazakhstan are in a particularly difficult situation. So too are the vegetable growing farms, and many other agricultural problems are not being resolved. Several decisions have therefore been made today. I would like to mention the three main ones. The first one is to bring into harvesting work sufficient numbers of workers, staff, and engineering and technical workers, with the intention of preventing losses of the good and mighty harvest of grain and fodder crops, sugar beets, potatoes, and vegetables.

[Announcer] In other words, the townspeople have to help the countryside, as I understand it?

[Nikitin] The townspeople have to give some very active help to the countryside. The second decision that was signed today by the chairman of the Council of Ministers is to bring in no less than 15 percent of the available fleet trucks belonging to all enterprises and organizations, without exception.

[Announcer] In general, then, these could be regarded as measures of a fairly emergency nature?

[Nikitin] Yes, it is an unusual measure; that is how I would put it.

[Announcer] How is it going to be organized?

[Nikitin] Yes, this has been organized. Furthermore....

[Announcer, interrupting] Excuse me, Vladilen Valentinovich, but I wanted to ask you how the fulfillment of this measure is going to be organized?

[Nikitin] A very short timescale has been given—a very short timesclae—to the ministries—the councils of ministers of the Union republics—literally several days for them to resolve these issues. Everyone has an interest in this today. Of course in its fundamentals it must be organized on the basis of mutual agreement, that is to say with due consideration for the provision of economic incentives for the people who will participate in the harvest; they will have to be encouraged by means of produce in kind, they will have to be given an opportunity to lay in vegetables and fruit and other produce for the winter, and these people will have to be provided with the conditions for their work. That is what it is: we have to understand each other, we have to understand

that if we do not bring in the harvest in the countryside today, then things will be difficult in the winter.

[Announcer] It will be bad for everyone, Vladilen Valentinovich; and the third measure, the third decision?

[Nikitin] I would like to say a few more words about the second one. To improve the situation even more with regard to transport, the Ministry of Defense is immediately sending 10,000 vehicles with their drivers—7,000 to Kazakhstan and an additional 3,000 to Russia—and for the whole period of the harvest. Those are two major measures. And the third one, I would say, is the one concerning the students. We have deemed it expedient to bring in the students to carry our agricultural work for one month, to allow rectors to postopone studies for one month with a view to being able to bring in the vegetables that have been grown. Today things are even going so far as having to plough them in because of the lack of people. At the same time the decision does not simply place obligations: we have also moved toward meeting the students, in lifting income tax from students who will be participating in agricultural work. They will not pay tax on what they earn; that is one thing. And the second thing is this: we have simply made an appeal, a purely human appeal to the students on behalf of the government—the students have always understood us—that they should make thier own contribution to bringing in the harvest and resolving our most difficult task today.

[Announcer] Vladilen Valentinovich, thank you very much indeed for the interview. Let us hope that the measures that have been adopted will reduce this year's harvest losses to a minimum.

[Nikitin] Quite simply, there is no alternative.

[Announcer] There is not. Thank you, and all the best.

Armed Forces Ordered To Help With Harvest

LD0208175690 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] We have received the following report from the press center of the Ministry of Defense. For this year's harvest the USSR Ministry of Defense has formed 70 motor vehicle battalions with 35,000 vehicles at their disposal. Most of them are already at work on grain transportation routes in Russia and Kazakhstan. All in all, since the beginning of the harvest, they have carried over 1 million tonnes of agricultural products, including 792,000 tonnes of breadgrain. In view of the fact that the situation is exceptionally strained in many regions because of the need to transport this year's unprecedented bumper grain harvest, it has been decided to allocate an additional 10,000 vehicles. The leadership of the USSR Ministry of Defense has appealed to all the officers and men of the Armed Forces to treat the harvest as a matter of special importance to the state.

Agricultural Developments for 31 Jul-1 Aug

LD0208140990

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 31 July-1 August, unless indicated otherwise. Times of broadcast, given in GMT, are in parenthesis at the end of each item.

31 July

Stavropol Kray has practically finished harvesting. The harvest of over 30 quintals per hectare was received this year. Though the harvest-time is over, thousands of tonnes of grain are in the open air and elevators are overfilled. Many farms sell grain to the population but that does not solve the problem in full. (0800)

(Leonid Stepanovich Cheshinskiy) RSFSR deputy minister of grain products, said that the grain harvest is coming to an end in the north Caucasus where Rostov Oblast and Stavropol Kray have fulfilled their procurement plans and Krasnodar Kray has nearly reached the target. In this area, we have in all procured more than 8 million tonnes of grain already, he said, going on to explain that the task now is to supply the grain to the processing areas. (Cheshinskiy) said that railway distribution to the centers has been disorganized because of the late start to the harvest in the north Caucasus, but the ministry has no particular complaint against the railways. Asked about the controversy concerning the purchase of grain abroad by the RSFSR, (Cheshinskiy) said: I don't think that in the immediate future we will be able to give up purchasing grain abroad entirely. First and foremost it is feed grain that we don't have enough of; we don't have enough of crops like corn and barley. As soon as the collective and state farms produce these crops in sufficient amounts, then obviously we will give it up. (Cheshinskiy) says that the neighboring Union republics do supply us with hybrid corn seed, but we do not get marketable corn grain from them. (1100)

1 August

Harvesting in the Ukraine is coming to an end. By today, grain and pulse crops have been threshed on three-quarters of the sown area. Farms of the Crimea, Kherson, Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, Odessa, and Chernovtsy Oblasts have practically completed the harvesting. The crops are good. The harvest of grain exceeds 40 quintals and on the whole in the republic it exceeds 37 quintals per ha. A second stage of the harvesting—gathering in of corn, groats, sunflowers, and sugar beets—is approaching. (0400)

The grain harvest is coming to an end in Uzbekistan. The majority of farms have not only met the goals of the state order, but have also provided themselves with enough feed to give a new impetus to the development of cattle-breeding. (1100)

The harvest of winter crops has begun in the Kurgan Oblast where mainly rye is cultivated. But many state and collective farms are also cultivating winter wheat. (1100)

So far grain crops have been cut in the republic on 100,000 hectares. This constitutes 10 percent of the whole area. Harvesting is taking place in all rayons. The average yields exceed 34 quintals of grain per ha. (Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 1 Aug 90)

Commercial Bank To Aid Agro-Industrial Firms

LD2807211290 Moscow TASS in English 2052 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 29 TASS—The Soviet Agroprombank has been transformed into a joint-stock commercial agro-industrial bank in accordance with a government decision to improve banking services to enterprises and organisations of the agro-industrial complex.

Ventures, agencies, organisations, banks and other Soviet juridical persons and individuals and joint ventures, foreign banks and other foreign juridical persons and citizens can be the bank's stock-holders.

Joint ventures can buy Agroprombank's stocks for roubles and for foreign currency.

Foreign juridical persons and citizens can buy the bank's stocks for foreign currency or for other property, in accordance with world prices on corresponding products.

Hard currency will be exchanged into roubles in accordance with the Soviet State Bank's exchange rate at the time of the transfer.

Scientific

Reportage on Flight To Transfer Cosmonauts

Soyuz TM-10 Launched

PM0308114590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Report by S. Slipchenko, G. Vishneva, A. Gerasimov, and V. Pankratov from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] In accordance with the space exploration program, the Soyuz TM-10 spacecraft was launched today, 1 August 1990, at 1332 hours Moscow time. It is piloted by a crew comprised of Spacecraft Commander Gennadiy Mikhaylovich Manakov and Flight Engineer USSR Pilot-Cosmonaut Gennadiy Mikhaylovich Strekalov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union. Here is a reportage by our special correspondents:

[Correspondent] The cosmonauts' day started as usual. Then, having donned the space suits, the cosmonauts met with representatives of the state commission, the chief designer, the leadership of the cosmodrome, and the guests who have arrived at Baykonur. Today there are particularly many guests, mainly Japanese.

The cosmonauts report to the chairman of the state commission.

[Manakov] Comrade chairman of the state commission, the crew of the Soyuz TM-10 spacecraft is ready for the mission.

[Colonel General Ivanov] I wish you a successful mission and safe return home. Have a good journey!

[Manakov] Thank you.

[Strekalov] Thank you.

[Correspondent] During the preparations for this launch Vladimir Leontyevich Ivanov was appointed chairman of the state commission. Officially he was the deputy chairman, but Kirim (?Aleyevich) Kirimov is sick, so on this occasion the decisions were made and the state commission was headed by Colonel General Ivanov. The cosmonauts are leaving for the launch complex. [video shows bus leaving, followed by close-up of launch complex, cosmonauts alighting from bus, final farewells]

This launch has a special meaning for those who are familiar with our space program. In 1983 Gennadiy Strekalov walked toward the launch vehicle just like today but that flight was destined not to take place.

The cosmonauts have climbed up on a small ramp in front of the elevator and you will be able to see, if not hear, Gennadiy Strekalov sending personal greetings to Aleksey Aleksandrovich Shumilin. General Shumilin is a veteran staffer of the cosmodrome. I have talked about him several times. [video shows Slipchenko exchanging a few words with Shumilin] He is the very man who managed, in a split second before a launch vehicle which had caught fire on the launch pad with Gennadiy Strekalov aboard, [words indistinct] to issue the command to abort the mission. And Gennadiy Strekalov and Vladimir Titov, who were in the spacecraft, were saved.

There are very many people on the spectators' platform today. Representatives of major Japanese companies and also of American Express are at the cosmodrome, as well as the director of [words indistinct due to background noise], the company which is preparing to send a cosmonaut to the Mir station at the end of December this year.

There is much talk about commerce in space, and specialists have very rightly warned against a dilettantish attitude toward this matter and against thinking that we can quickly earn large sums of money from cosmonautics to solve all kind of problems. Another view is that with this money we can obtain output produced in space which will help us grow rich.

So what is the value of the knowledge acquired by Soviet scientists and designers in the course of space exploration?

Well, this knowledge is currently attracting some of the biggest and most prominent financiers and businessmen. This is what interests them.

[Video shows cosmonauts in craft ready for blastoff, shots of the mission control room, and the launch pad as the props move away and the Soyuz TM-10 blasts off]

[Newscaster] Let's wish the cosmonauts successful work in space!

Soyuz Docks With Mir Station

LD0308122390 Moscow TASS in English 1218 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—The Soviet spacecraft Soyuz TM-10 docked with the Mir orbital complex at 15:46 Moscow time [1146 GMT] today.

Cosmonauts Gennadiy Manakov and Gennadiy Strekalov, who blasted off aboard Soyuz TM-10 on August 1, will replace the crew of the sixth main expedition, Anatoliy Solovyov and Aleksandr Balandin, who spent nearly six months on board Mir.

U.S. Scientist Praises Soviet Space Technology

PM0308102990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Report by S. Slipcheko, V. Pankratov, and G. Vishneva from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] When James Oberg [surname as heard], the U.S. scientist popularizing space radio and space technology, visited these buildings at the Baykonur Cosmodrome where the Energiya rocket and Buran shuttle are mated, he went up to the bay where the booster itself is assembled and said: Mankind may not be able to invent a more modern machine before the next century. This is only one of the Energiya booster rocket's strap-on boosters [reporter points at Energiya]. Some countries, including large countries like Brazil and Australia, have asked the Soviet Union to develop international cosmodromes because no one has more experience than the USSR in complexes like these. So while we are wondering about whether to continue space research or bring it to an end, many people are thinking about how to acquire this experience from us.

Foreign Specialists Study Effects of Chernobyl

LD0308094590 Moscow TASS in English 0918 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Dozens of foreign specialists are now conducting comprehensive research on the territory of Belorussia, the Ukraine, and Russia affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, PRAVDA reports today.

They are implementing the project "The Radiological Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident in the USSR: Analysis of the Effect of Health and the Environment and Evaluation of Protective Measures", which was developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The IAEA is temporarily headquartered in Gomel to coordinate actions by international teams.

IAEA Gomel office chief Jiri Biranek told PRAVDA that after the six-month program, a summary report is planned in December. It will comprise the conclusions, assessments, and proposals by 100 experts from Brazil, Canada, the United States, Denmark, Israel, Italy, Japan, Britain, Yugoslavia, France, and Hungary.

The expenditures during their stay in the USSR are covered by the Soviet side. The USSR Council of Ministers set aside 1.5 million rubles for this purpose. The IAEA took upon itself currency financing.

The specialists are expected to carry out an immense amount of work to study the entire human environment. They will make thousands upon thousands of measurements and tests of human hair and nails, soil samples, water and food. Simultaneously, they will evaluate the clinico-medical consequences of the exposure to radiation.

Biranek said that the commission's conclusions would form the basis for providing U.N. aid to Soviet people. He said the IAEA hoped to improve health care in the contaminated zone as well as the standard of life as a whole.

Birek said his personal assessment of the situation was that not only radiation but also openly poor medical aid and a clearly insufficient quality and quantity of food caused great harm today.

Military

NATO, Warsaw Pact Military Exercises Compared

LD0308083690 Moscow TASS in English 0825 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Are the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation going to follow the example of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation [WTO] and lower the intensity of technical and combat training of their armed forces? The answer remains unclear. If military activity of the two military-political alliances in the recent years is compared, the following can be noted:

Unlike NATO, the WTO is cutting back on major exercises. There were 25 such exercises in 1987, 21 in 1988, 14 in 1989, and only seven are planned for this year—75 per cent of the number of exercises planned by NATO.

The total number of troops involved in exercises throughout the year, and in each exercise held by the WTO, is from 75 to 50 per cent the number involved in NATO exercises. The duration of Warsaw Treaty exercises is also shorter in about the same proportion.

But some changes as regards NATO should be noted. NATO recently abrogated the regular staff exercises WINTEX during which the interaction of NATO armed forces and civilian authorities in the event of a nuclear conflict in Europe are drilled. The expediency of Bold Guard-90 exercises in Denmark and in Schleswig-Holstein, West Germany, from September 25-October 15 is being questioned.

The reduction of the number of exercises and numerical strength of the troops involved can only be welcomed. This would be another factor building confidence between the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and the North Atlantic Alliance, between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Major exercises, particularly those simulating the use of nuclear weapons, cause anxiety on the opposing side. There is also difficulty in distinguishing such exercises from the actual deployment of armed forces.

In addition, large-scale exercises are not necessary to perfect defences. They usually give the impression that they are meant for preparing commands for large-scale offensives.

Moreover, the large-scale daily military activity of NATO countries calls into question the sincerity of statements that the NATO military doctrine is defensive.

FRANCE PRESSE [AFP] reports that a NATO leader said it is not easy to plan military exercises in a world that is becoming more tranquil every day. Few Europeans can probably sympathise with such "difficulties". The removal of menace should be welcomed. Old myths should not be supported and new enemies should not be invented.

Ogarkov Addresses Veterans Council Presidium

90UM0788A Moscow VETERAN in Russian No 31, 30 Jul-05 Aug 90 p 3

[Unattributed article: "The Time for Action; Meeting of the Presidium of the All-Union Council of Veterans"]

[Text] A meeting of the presidium of the all-Union Council of Veterans of War, Labor, and the Armed Forces took place 24-25 July in Moscow at the Central Club of the Soviet Army imeni M.V. Frunze.

Marshall of the Soviet Union N.V. Ogarkov, chairman of the all-Union council, congressional delegate, and member of the CPSU Central Committee, gave detailed information at the meeting about the work of the 28th CPSU Congress. He talked about the circumstances under which the congress took place, the basic provisions of M.S. Gorbachev's report, the accounts of members and candidate members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, speeches of the delegates, and resolutions adopted at the congress concerning the most important trends in the activity of the party. The congress, N.V. Ogarkov noted, has lived up to the expectations of the people. After a broad exchange of opinions and stormy discussions, it adopted decisions which answer the sentiments of communists and the spirit and goals of the perestroyka underway in the party. There is no doubt that the influence of the 28th CPSU Congress on the course of events in the country and on perestroyka in the party itself will be significant and prolonged. Its decisions are aimed at stabilizing sociopolitical development and consolidating healthy forces; that is, all who are in favor of socialist choice and a communist future.

N.V. Ogarkov stressed that now, after the congress, the veterans councils are called upon to carry out all their efforts with consideration for the congress goals. Now is the time for action. Veterans should be the party's active assistants in solving the tasks of perestroyka and in finding its highest vanguard potential in society.

Acting on the information of N.V. Ogarkov, a decree was adopted: The presidium approved the documents adopted by the 28th party congress and saw its own duty in taking an active part in the fulfillment of the tasks defined by the rulings of the congress; the presidium considers it necessary to discuss at the next plenum of the all-Union council the question of the work of veterans organizations in current sociopolitical circumstances in light of the rulings of the 28th CPSU Congress. It was recommended that the councils of veterans implement measures to create in veterans collectives all the necessary conditions for the explanation and free discussion of the decisions of the 28th CPSU Congress and that the editorial board of VETERAN publish materials on the results of the congress and organize on the pages of the newspaper the speeches of delegates of the 28th party congress.

The meeting's participants heard the report of N.V. Ogarkov on draft amendments and supplements to the statutes of the All-Union Organization of Veterans of War and Labor.

What are the basic ideas of the draft on which a commission especially created in March 1990 by the plenum of the All-Union Council of Veterans has been working?

The first and most basic idea is that the all-Union organization of veterans should be unified and act within the bounds of a single statute. The Soviet Committee of Veterans of War and its functions will be preserved as a structural subunit within the all-Union council. The idea is for the soviets of veterans at all levels to carry out leadership directly through the activities of all veterans organizations according to the new law. In addition, it is proposed to have a committee of veterans of the Armed Forces in the all-Union council and to have corresponding structural subunits in the local soviets of veterans. The united organization should be called the

All-Union Organization of Veterans for short. Its highest organ would not be a conference as it is now, but a congress which is convoked not less than once in five years. A new provision in the draft of the statute is membership in the organization. A majority of the soviets have spoken in favor of it. A chapter entitled "Rights of the Soviets of Veterans" has been introduced into the draft statute. Sources of funds for the organization are indicated: membership dues, sponsorship, aid of organizations and enterprises, deductions from the profits of veterans cooperatives, etc. Membership dues are expected to be small—once per year at a rate of one percent of monthly income—and primary organizations will be granted the right to release some pensioners from paying them.

The following took part in the discussion of the report: N.V. Bosenko, A.P. Silantyev, A.Ye. Andreyev, F.K. Ishchenko, V.I. Davydov, V.Ya. Azarov, I.S. Katyshkin, A.I. Chernyshev, A.I. Shvayko, G.I. Skorobogatov, A.D. Lizichev, I.S. Mednikov, V.I. Dolgikh, G.G. Dygay, V.B. Sereda, M.D. Nasirov, and A.Yu. Repp.

The presidium decided to agree with the primary provisions of the amendments and supplements to the statute which were worked out by the commission and to commission it and the departments and commissions of the all-Union council to finish a draft statute responsive to the exchange of opinions which took place at the meeting of the presidium, and then to publish it in the press for discussion by the country's veterans, and afterwards to introduce it for the examination of the next plenum of the all-Union council.

Speaking in detail about the progress of preparations for publication of the all-Union memorial book was General of the Army I.N. Shkadov, chairman of its editorial board. T.V. Golubtsova, deputy chairman of the all-Union council's commission on questions of ideological work talked about the experience of the councils of veterans of Novosibirsk Oblast with amateur public associations.

The meeting of the presidium passed a decision to conduct the next plenum of the all-Union council in November 1990 and invite USSR people's deputies from veterans organizations; chairmen of the soviets of veterans of the autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts; and members of the Presidium of the Soviet Committee of Veterans of the War who are members of the all-Union council.

Baltic Republics

Lithuanian Council Adopts Two Decrees

LD0208134690 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Summary] Government spokesman C. Jursenas says that two important decrees have been adopted by the Council of Ministers and signed by the prime minister of the republic.

By the first decree, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry was entrusted with the task of coordinating the issues of drawing and protecting the borders of Lithuania. The ministry should also carry out the signing of relevant agreements. Various other ministries were given the task to define the border of Lithuania that goes along the Baltic Sea. And taking this into consideration, the area of Lithuania's economic activity there should be set up.

The other decree concerns agriculture. It says that 30.578 million rubles of long-term credits and 26.569 million rubles of short-term credits to state farms, collective farms, and enterprises should be written off by the state bank.

Lithuania Criticizes USSR Border Decision

LD0208205290 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] ELTA announces a statement by the Lithunian Foreign Ministry: As already reported, the USSR Council of Ministers, in line with its decision No. 719 of 20 July 1990, has temporarily suspended the validity of Council of Ministers decision No. 1119 of 27 September 1988. From 1000 on 2 August, business trips abroad, and private and tourist trips can take place only with passports for traveling abroad. All other documents, inserts in internal passports, and lists are invalid.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry received official information about this from the USSR Foreign Ministry only at 1400 on 2 August. The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry is authorized to state that the republic's government has not asked the Soviet Union's Council of Ministers to change the procedure of crossing the border at the Lazdijai-Ogrodniki border checkpoint. This unilateral decision of the Soviet Government violates the rights of the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania and hampers the development of humanitarian and cultural contacts.

Lazdijai Border Checkpoint Tightens Procedures

LD0208211190 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1920 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] A new order of crossing the border at the checkpoint in Lazdijai is introduced beginning today. According to a decision by the USSR Council of Ministers, which was adopted at the request of the Councils of Ministers of Lithuania and Belorussia, limitations are introduced for crossing the border by persons who are in possession of internal passports with remarks. They are mainly tourists and people visiting their relatives. This measure has been taken with a view to the struggle against black marketerring.

Prunskiene Heads to Moscow Meeting With Silayev

LD0208203190 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Today the prime minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Kazimiera Prunskiene, left for Moscow to meet the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, Ivan Silayev. The prime minister is accompanied by deputy minister of the economy, Klemensas Sebutis, deputy minister of material resources, Pranas Mazeika, and Deputy Minister of Trade Vaclovas Zilinskas.

The purpose of the visit is to discuss next year's prospects of economic relations between Lithuania and Russia.

Pro-Union Lithuanian Party Issues Statement

LD0208212290 Moscow TASS in English 2058 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius August 3 TASS—The political situation in Lithuania remains complex and controversial, reads a statement of the pro-Union Lithuanian Communist Party (CPSU) Central Committee Bureau on the political situation in the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic and the tasks of Lithuanian Communist Party (CPSU) organisations.

The documents states that, by their legislative acts and actions, the republic's parliament and government continue to aggravate the political, social and economic situation, destroy economic and social foundations of the Soviet socialist property of the republic and set on nationalist groupings and stir up hatred to socialism and the Soviet Union.

The Lithuanian Communist Party (CPSU) Central Committee Bureau believes that statements and actions of the separatist leadership of the republic testify to their aim to postpone the beginning of negotiations with the country's leadership and then wreck them on a plausible excuse, blaming the Soviet leadership for this.

The Lithuanian leadership is planning to put forward a demand to recognise it as a subject of international law as a precondition for the beginning of talks. This would allow it to interpret the beginning of talks as a de facto recognition of the Lithuanian state independence.

In order to drag out the talks, the Lithuanian leadership is planning to insist on holding them in several stages. Doing so, the separatists want to play for time in order to destroy the socialist statehood structures and socialist

production relations, denationalise and privatise the economy, the document reads.

The Central Committee Bureau called on communists, working people of the republic and everybody who cares about Lithuania's future, to oppose the fatal course of the republic's separatist leadership and demand to restore the functioning of the constitutions of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Soviet Union on the republic's territory.

The Lithuanian Communist Party (CPSU) Central Committee Bureau addressed the Soviet president and Supreme Soviet, asking them to recognise the powers of the commission of experts of the Lithuanian Communist Party (CPSU) and the committee of citizens of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic at the future talks.

Lithuanian Deserters Threatened With 'Force'

LD0208194390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] August 5 is the last day on which Lithuanian soldiers who left their military units stationed in the Baltic Military Okrug without authority can freely return. This was stated in an INTERFAX interview by the head of the political department of the military registration and enlistment office [voenkomat] of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colonel Golubev. According to his figures, in all 94 Lithuanian youths have deserted. Force will be used against those who do not return by 5 August, Golubev said. He also said that by order of the USSR Defense Minister, certain Lithuanian officers have been stripped of their military ranks. They include the chairman of the central committee of the republican voluntary society for the promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy, Colonel Kairis and Lieutenant Colonel Norkus, who recruited volunteers in Klaipeda for the defense of the republic. The order states that the officers are liable to demotion for discrimination against the rank of Soviet officers and anticonstitutional activities.

Hunt for Lithuanian Army Deserters Continues

LD0308083390 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] The hunt for those Lithuanian youths who have deserted their military bases in the Soviet Armed Forces continues. Telephone messages have been sent to the commanding officers of the Soviet Army units, ordering them to send discipline officers and ensigns to the places of residence of such youths to organize their detention and return them to their units.

The procurator general of the Republic of Lithuania, Arturas Paulauskas, regards such actions as illegal. He notes that the Lithuanian Procuracy is the only institution in Lithuania that exercises the supervision of the law, and that has the right and duty to bring lawsuits, to investigate, and to bring those guilty to trial. It is the duty of the Lithuanian Procuracy to defend the interests of such youths. All the conditions have been created for this purpose. They are being issued documents, their right to work is not limited, and the law and order bodies do not persecute them.

The Lithuanian general procurator states that the procuracy will institute a lawsuit for each kidnapping of such youths. This is an impermissible interference into the internal affairs of our state.

Ownership of Clandestine Station 'Confirmed'

LD0308110290 Vilnius International Service in English 2200 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the program "Hello DX'ers, No. 38"]

[Text] The clandestine communist radio station Tarybu Lietuva has already been mentioned in edition Nos. 35 and 36 of "Hello DX'ers" [long-distance radio listeners], but today its name crops up once again, as more and more information regarding this station is made public. I still use the word clandestine when speaking of this CPSU-owned broadcaster, because no information about the transmitter address and location of Tarybu Lietuva can be received from the station itself. Besides, its frequency is not registered with the Lithuanian Electric Communications Inspection, as is required by the law. That's why the inspection was the first to radar the underground transmitter; the second, by the way, was my colleague and I. Both results coincided; the station appears to be located within the borders of Vilnius, in its northeastern part, in the training center of the military officers' high school of radio electronics, also based in Vilnius. So the military ownership of the transmitting facilities has finally been confirmed.

90 Percent of Lithuanians Back Independence Act

LD0108165590 Moscow TASS in English 1622 GMT 1 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius August 1 TASS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene is the most popular politician in the Baltic republic today, according to the results of a public opinion poll announced today.

The survey, based on the Gallup Institute's methods, was conducted by the Sociology Department of Vilnius University.

Prunskiene, with a popularity rating of 55 per cent, was followed by her deputy and leader of the pro-independence Lithuanian Communist Party Algirdas Brazauskas with a 47 per cent rating and president Vytautas Landsbergis with a rating of 30 per cent.

The poll's findings confirmed that most people in the republic think the top priority is "to look for real ways to

affirm independence and economic reform" and, judging by their assessments of political leaders, favour political centrism.

Nine in every ten respondents approved of the Lithuanian independence act, which was, however, supported by only half of the Poles and Russians polled.

Eighty per cent of respondents supported the need for the act's suspension for 100 days of talks with the USSR.

Forty-two per cent rated the Lithuanian government's performance as good, while only 23 per cent held the same view of the parliament's showing.

Trade Union Plans To 'Nationalize' Facilities

PM0108122990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jul 90 Second Edition p 1

[Report by Yu. Stroganov: "Who Is To Own the Health Facilities?"]

[Text] Vilnius—Vilnius residents have gotten used to pickets and rallies outside the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet. But the latest one was unusual. "Hands Off What's Not Yours"—these and other banners in Lithuanian appealed to the parliamentarians' consciences. So what had happened?

The participants in a trade unions' conference held in Vilnius just recently found out about a republican plan to nationalize trade union property. Health clinics, rest centers and homes, sports complexes, and a variety of premises are being threatened, but the exact nature of this threat is something on which opinions differ. Some people think that there is no harm in the actual handover of the facilities to the state, only the decision ought to be taken openly, with account taken of trade union members' views. Others believe that, in the atmosphere of privatization, all the facilities will end up in private ownership.

In their indignation pickets from Alitus, for example, made it clear that they were ready to recall their deputies. Republic Supreme Soviet deputies A. Abishala and A. Ambrazyavichus spoke to representatives from many Lithuanian cities outside the parliament. A sharp exchange took place, with mutual recriminations. OK, the pickets conceded, the trade union really ought to restructure faster, but only the working people can decide how they should dispose of their own social organization's property.

It is hard to say what the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet will finally do in this situation. But a declaration on the matter adopted at the republic trade unions' conference referred to above says, inter alia: "Such plans on the part of the Supreme Soviet do not feature in the civilized, democratic state which we are planning to revive...."

Estonian, Russian Negotiations To Begin 9 Aug

LD0308084190 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0700 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Tallinn: Yesterday, Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar met here Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev. Procedural questions on the future talks between the two republics were discussed. It was decided to start negotiations in Moscow on 9 August and conclude them on 20 August. An economic agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Estonia is to be signed at the beginning of September.

At an interview with the Estonian news agency, Ivan Silayev promised that the Russian Federation would help to eliminate the shortage of fuel in Estonia.

Estonian Consultative Council Session Held

PM0208133490 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Leonid Levitskiy under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Consultative Council Session"]

[Text] Tallinn—Representatives of 20 parties and social movements took part in a session of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium Consultative Council.

There was one subject under discussion: the strategy and tactics of the movement toward independence, and its crux—the attitude to the future Union treaty. Supreme Soviet Chairman Arnold Ruutel spoke about the meeting in Riga of the chairmen of the Supreme Soviets of Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, and Estonia and about the work of the Baltic States Council, and analyzed the political situation in the republic. This situation is in many ways determined by the approaching 50th anniversary of the admission of Estonia into the Soviet Union. The viewpoint on the events of the past has altered cardinally. Many political parties and movements believe that in August 1940 a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet simply legalized the occupation of the republic. And it is no accident that an extraordinary session of the republic's Supreme Soviet, where it will not be solemn jubilee speeches that will be heard, has been scheduled for 6 August.

The participants in the consultative council were unanimous—the Baltic republics should not take part in formulating the new Union treaty, let alone sign it. The opinions of those present, and therefore of their parties also, diverged significantly in the assessment of many other questions.

Members of the Committee of Estonia, which represents the alternative power in the republic, demanded to know who had given Arnold Ruutel the right to speak in the Baltic States Council in the name of the Estonian republic, where his credentials are, and why the council's decisions are not being ratified. A proposal to reorganize the Supreme Soviet Presidium so that all political forces of the parliament are represented in it was voiced. This

time the consultative council session was attended by representatives of parties and movements of virtually just one trend. No one from the United Council of Labor Collectives or the deputies' group "For Equal Rights" was present at such an important discussion. There are two communist parties today in Estonia. The representatives of the communist party that supports a renewed federation were also absent.

RSFSR

Russian, Lithuanian Premiers View Economic Ties

LD0308121690 Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Lev Aksenov]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev and his Lithuanian counterpart Kazimiera Prunskiene met here today to discuss work on a bilateral economic treaty.

"We have reached an agreement on all the key issues that interest our republics," Silayev told TASS, after the talks ended.

"Members of both governments have been given a week to prepare a draft treaty," he said.

On August 14 and 15 Silayev will pay a return visit to Lithuania to sign the treaty, he said.

The treaty should aim to retain current contacts between the two republics in major industries.

"This year's level will serve as a basis (for the treaty). This is a key issue. We should disrupt neither our internal ties nor the all-Union market," Silayev said.

"We also discussed prices. We have decided to base our relations on world prices on some positions, on others—on prices stemming from minimum profit levels."

The talks helped lay the groundwork for a Union treaty, Silayev believes.

"I highly appreciate Russia's and Prime Minister Ivan Silayev's intention of maintaining and developing our ties, the wish to relay on the principles of equality and mutual benefit," Prunskiene said.

"These principles will be supported by concrete draft agreements in various spheres, for instance concerning the Lithuanian purchase of fuel and energy resources and raw materials for the processing industry," she said.

Prunskiene said Lithuania will continue to deliver food and consumer goods to Russia.

"We understand that the partners are interested in these contacts and their development and that both sides will seek to converge their interests without taking discriminatory measures," she said.

The Lithuanian prime minister hoped that tolerance and mutual understanding will guarantee the successful resolution of economic issues between the two republics.

"We are satisfied with the results and hope that the outcome (of other talks) will be positive," she concluded.

Terekhov Discusses RSFSR-Baltic Talks

LD0208174390 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] An unprecedented process of talks has begun between the Russian Federation and the Baltic republics. Here is a report by Vyacheslav Terekhov.

The meeting with Lithuania's representatives could not be described as talks to conclude a treaty. Those are only the first contacts, in which delegations led by the first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbulatov, and his Lithuanian counterpart, Ceslovas Stankevicius, discussed the principle clauses of a possible treaty on relations and cooperation between the republics. Expert groups have been set up to tackle specific work in preparing such a document.

Following those contacts two rounds of talks were held in Moscow directly dealing with the treaty on relations between the Russian Federation and Latvia. They have permitted agreements on some principle clauses of the future treaty. That will form a foundation for the two republics' cooperation in all fields. The participants of the talks, the leader of the Latvian delegation, deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, Andrejs Krastins, in particular noted that on some points the delegations are ahead of the existing laws so they have to weigh every word [in order] not to have to change the text afterwards.

The leader of the Russian Federation's delegation, Ruslan Khasbulatov, attaches great importance to the fact that Lithuania and Latvia, both wishing to secede from the Soviet Union have large Russian minorities.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording, in Russian, fading into English translation] I see their readiness to talk with the Russian Federation not only as a political but also as a moral factor. In this way we'll be able to do more than talk about protecting the interests of our countrymen. We know they have apprehensions and doubts about their future. We are partly to blame for that since we failed to exercise enough tact and only increased their problems without going into their complex and dramatic situation. [end recording]

An agreement has been reached to include in the draft treaty special reservations on the rights of minorities in Latvia, on the guarantees given by both republics for those rights. The third round of talks will be held in Riga next week. In reply to the question if those talks interfered with negotiations coming between the USSR's central government and the Baltic republics Ruslan

Khasbulatov stressed that neither the Russian Federation nor its Baltic partners intend to juxtapose those two processes. Moreover, direct talks between the republics help and enrich the talks with the central government.

Problems Between Russian-Speakers, Tuvians

Miners Escorted to Work

LD0208173890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Another hot spot has appeared on the territory of our country. The situation has exacerbated in Tuva between the Tuvians and the Russian-speaking population. More than 3,000 people have left the republic over the last half year, and the flow is not abating. Many industrial enterprises in Tuva are on the brink of closing down today. Thus, the miners of the Tuvakobalt combine are travelling to work escorted by a militia detachment. But according to Kuular, charge d'affaires of the republic's Council of Ministers, the government is keeping the situation under control.

'Tense' Situation

LD0208165390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Now about an incident in Kyzyl. An antitank mine placed against the porch of a hostel, where the personnel of a special purpose militia detachment are temporarily accommodated, did not explode and turned out to be a training device. However this provocation has confirmed how tense the situation is in the Tuva Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, where relations between the indigenous and the Russian-speaking population have become sharply exacerbated.

Over the past six months over 3,000 people have left the autonomous republic. However, according to Shirshin, first secretary of the Tuva oblast committee of the CPSU, there is no refugee problem. People are leaving for family reasons. Contrary to this claim, alarming facts show that many of the Tuva republic's industrial enterprises are already on the verge of coming to a halt. An acute shortage of specialists is having an effect on the Tuvaasbest combine, Kyzyl district heating and power station, and on construction sites and transport organizations.

People's alarm is also understandable. In the situation that has emerged in the autonomous republic, no one can provide a guarantee of safe residence beyond the Sayan mountains for the Russian-speaking population. The slightest spark would be sufficient to set alight a conflagration of interethnic feuding.

Tatar Autonomous Republic Considers Sovereignty

LD0308093190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] The plenum of the Tatar Oblast Committee of the CPSU has started today in Kazan. Its participants will examine the results of the party's 28th congress and the tasks of communists in the autonomous republic to implement its decisions. Also on the agenda is the issue of the state sovereignty of Tataria.

New RSFSR Ministers Outline Goals

904A0522A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by D. Leontyev on interviews with RSFSR Minister of Industry V. Kisin, Minister of Finance B. Fedorov, and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations V. Yaroshenko; place and date not given: "The Plans of the Russian Ministers"]

[Text]Many people have been following with hope and interest the formation of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] government. What are the problems that concern the people who have just taken over key economic posts in the new cabinet? We asked Minister of Industry V. Kisin, Minister of Finance B. Fedorov, and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations V. Yaroshenko to talk about this.

V. Kisin

As you can see, the ministry that has been given to me is an unusual one. It did not exist previously, and so my first concern is to work out a structure for it. What should it be? Like that of an ordinary sector ministry? Or should it be something like a department?

I suggest that we create a ministry of the European type. It will have a staff of no more than 300. And the main figure here will be the specialist, with few bosses and a great deal of freedom.

We will necessarily set up a group to maintain communications with the republic parliaments. This step is dictated by the new system of economic relations that is beginning to take shape within the framework of the Union. Close contact with the mass media is also very important. This means that there should be a group of journalist-analysts that can generalize everything of interest and the unconventional experience to which life is now giving birth at the local level. It could also study and analyze practice in the economic work of the soviets.

In general the structure of the ministry will be accountable to the RSFSR Council of Ministers, but I can say nothing further at this stage.

With regard to the selection of personnel, political orientation, of course, will not be taken into consideration. It is very desirable to combine youth with professionalism. Incidentally, in the few days since my confirmation many people have already approached me. Both

scholars and people with practical experience. Economists are offering their services. Naturally, this is very gratifying for me.

Many people ask how mutual relations will be shaped between the ministry and the production collectives.

We hold in our hands only economic levers. We are equally concerned for the development of both the state sector and the free sector. The state order system will operate mainly within the state sector. Outside the state sector the enterprises are absolutely free, and here we will have a marriage of convenience with the entrepreneurs.

Something else is of more concern to me at present. Most of the industrial enterprises located in Russia have up to now been subordinate to the all-Union sector ministries. How to set up mutual relations with them? Here, I suggest, we must wait for the conclusion of a treaty of federation. Meanwhile we have only the political statement of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, which has addressed only in declarative form the management by the republic of everything located on its territory. What is needed now is a legislative formulation.

One special problem is that of the military-industrial complex, whose share of Russian territory is enormous. The more specific issue in this regard will be resolved after the conclusion of the Union treaty. But even now our ministry can perhaps be useful here. In what role? In the search for solutions with a view to placing orders with defense industry enterprises for nonmilitary output. And in drawing up the principles to be used in their relationship with the state.

Taking into account the extreme neglect of industry in Russia, do we think about dealing with its revival independently or do we count on help from abroad? We do the latter. We shall resolve the issue of offering foreign entrepreneurs broad rights to enter our market and the right to invest their assets and lease our enterprises. This must all be regulated only through taxes, customs duties, and licenses.

B. Fedorov

Up to now the Russian Ministry of Finance has been an administrative appendage of the "big Ministry of Finance." The republic budget was a similar appendage to the all-Union budget. Now there can be no question of direct subordination. The RSFSR Congress of People's Deputies has unambiguously demonstrated its determination not to surrender its own financial and budget policy to the USSR.

What do we propose for a start? First of all, today we must bring proper order to the taxes that could collect under present law but because of mismanagement and slipshod practice are not collecting. Specific methods exist for radically improving the efficiency of the tax services. Of course, Russian tax legislation must still be drawn up and adopted, and so in the interim we will be guided by the standards of all-Union tax legislation. But the RSFSR Supreme Soviet will now be allocating the sums collected, not all- Union organs.

Concern for filling the Russian treasury is a primary, but in my opinion not our main, concern. The main concern is to give all people with initiative an opportunity to work normally, which, incidentally, is what ministries of finance do throughout the civilized world. It seems to me that the republic Ministry of Finance should become not so much a fiscal organ but rather a supervisory organ that will monitor order in the economy. So that exchanges can be exchanges and not the haunts of criminals. So that the issue of securities is not hemmed with fraud.

The market should be established under strict control, otherwise the "Panama" companies and the "South Sea" companies, well described in the literature, will ineluctably appear. And the legal foundation of a healthy economic system must be successfully laid in the next two or three months. The set of appropriate draft laws is being worked on, and we will soon be submitting them for discussion by the legislators.

We have also assumed the task of registering all the joint-stock companies set up in the republic, including those in which foreign capital is invested. I see nothing bad in allowing foreign companies to open their branches here directly, without having to hide behind the curtain of joint-venture enterprises. The only thing on which I have insisted and still insist is that all economic entities be equal regardless of whether they are state or joint- stock, or whether or not foreign capital has been invested in them, or whether it is a confectioner's business or a shipbuilding business.

I am very concerned about inflation. It seems to me that it would be in the interests of the Russian economy to defend the integrity of the all-Union market and the corresponding unified monetary system. But then it will necessarily be essential to reorganize the bank structure: Let each republic have its own central bank and a network of commercial banks, and the present State Bank [Gosbank] would then become something analogous to the federal reserve system in the United States. Well, say, in a union of central republic banks. The managers of the banks will jointly shape a unified financial policy but will not be directly involved in issuing money or credits.

It is also time to demand an end to the financing of the USSR's state debt by removing assets from the Gosbank; this may be hiding the greatest source of inflation in the country. Incidentally, the Soviet ruble has the most "original" backing in the world—a state debt instead of currency reserves or reliable securities, as is accepted in civilized countries. We therefore consider it our duty to veto loans to the USSR from Western bankers, for it is not known who will receive the assets from loans or who will pay off the obligations incurred. And finally, time

itself will determine the owner of the currency—the all-Union government or still those who receive the currency?

In brief, we need proper definition in everything, in both foreign and domestic relations.

V. Yaroshenko

Together with the ministerial portfolio I have also been given undeveloped foreign economic relations. The main task for the republic ministry is to make them an element of the international division of labor and specialization and cooperation.

It is still to early to say how this will be realized. Here, much depends on the Union treaty. But here are some of the ideas that can now be looked at and that I am ready to share.

The country is now like a steam kettle about to explode. The economy is so overheated. I think that it is quite realistic to mitigate this stress with the help of Western investments. Just take tourism. It is somewhat of a one-off kind here: alas, foreigners do not make repeat trips, and the trips that are made are not mass in nature. But this is a sphere in which profit, including hard currency, could be made very quickly.

We have banks ready to finance the development of the tourist infrastructure: build hotels, organize transport and food for tourists. And appropriate agreements already exist. There is also a proposal to build ski resorts on the Kolsk peninsula and in the Caucasus.

In general, as you know on the last day of the first session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet a resolution "On the Development of Free Enterprise Zones" was adopted. On local initiative, in addition to Sakhalin, places such as Leningrad, Kaliningrad, and Chita Oblasts, Vyborg, and Maritime Kray have been suggested. It must be assumed that in the near future these regions will be able to make significant improvements in economic positions.

Now let us turn our attention to articles that are difficult to dispose of. The enterprises have about 800 billion rubles [R] of them. And there is no expediter. So let them sell for hard currency or for rubles, whatever.

In my opinion we must approach uncompleted production facilities in just as radical a way; this is now worth about R200 billion. Moreover, the designs are obviously obsolete because they have been under construction for decades. If they are completed and start to produce the output planned, no one will need it. And there is no funding available to bring things to a conclusion. So let us "throw out" these "boxes" by auctioning and selling them to those who want them—ourselves and foreigners. Let them install their own equipment and set up production.

We have not received foreign capital for so long that we have every grounds for doubting that businessmen will work with us here. Yes, they need guarantees for activity on Russian territory. In time parliament will offer these guarantees, after it has adopted draft laws.

Let me also share the idea of the "silk road." Why do I call it this? At one time such a road did exist, along which silk was brought to Europe. Now the Japanese are transferring goods and tourists there by sea and air. And they have suggested that we continue that road right through the entire Union in the form of a multiple-lane high-speed toll road. Foreign freight can be moved along it for hard currency, and Soviet freight for rubles. We have done the calculations and we are convinced that it would be very profitable. But the project is extraordinarily costly. We therefore propose that we can lease land and let others build it. The profits will be split. Incidentally, the Japanese construction boom has ended and enormous numbers of technicians and manpower are being freed up.

Housing! A subject of special debate. Just like the production of foodstuffs. We also want to attract foreign capital for this. There are many ways to do it. And here, too, we should go along the path of leasing. We have about 6 million hectares of empty land that grows nothing but tall weeds. We could lease 1 million to foreigners to grow agricultural crops and develop livestock farming—sow the grain, produce raw materials, sausages, and feed the region where you are based.

One reasonable question is how soon could any real return be obtained from this? Here I am an optimist. I recall that two years ago in Pushkin Square in Moscow, unauthorized meetings were being held. At that time the militia would open fire for a scrap of paper on which the word "pluralism" was written. But now this word is normal for any conservative. So there is nothing unrealistic in these goals.

RSFSR Decree on State Banks Published

904A0488A Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Jul 90 p 4

[Decree of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet on the RSFSR State Bank and Banks on the Territory of the Republic]

[Text] Guided by the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] and the decree of the First Congress of People's Deputies of the RSFSR "On Delineation of the Functions of the Administration of Organizations on the Territory of the RSFSR (Basis of the New Union Treaty)," the RSFSR Supreme Soviet hereby decrees:

1. The Russian Republic Bank of the USSR Gosbank [State Bank], the Russian Republic Bank of the USSR Industrial Construction Bank, the Russian Republic Bank of the USSR Agricultural Construction Bank, the Russian Republic Bank of the USSR Bank for Housing and Municipal Services and Social Development, and the Russian Republic Bank of the USSR Savings Bank with their network of computer centers on the territory

of the republic, the institutions of the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Operations on the territory of the RSFSR with their assets and liabilities, and also the republic administration for indexation with its network of institutions and organizations, and the branch of the Main Computer Center of the USSR Gosbank in Moscow are declared to be the property of the RSFSR.

2. The Russian Republic Bank of the USSR Gosbank is transformed into the RSFSR State Bank which answers to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

3. The Russian Republic Bank of the USSR Savings Bank is transformed into the RSFSR Savings Bank, which is placed under the jurisdiction of the RSFSR State Bank with all of its assets and liabilities as of 1 July 1990.

The depositors retain all of their previous rights, benefits, and privileges envisioned by existing legislation.

4. Before the adoption of the Union treaty, a loan is to be issued and accounts are to be settled within the limit of the indebtedness established for banking institutions as of 1990 with the application of the existing interest rates.

5. Before 1 January 1991 institutions of state specialized banks in the autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts are to be transformed into commercial banks with joint stocks or shares.

The RSFSR Council of Ministers instructs the RSFSR State Bank to develop within a month proposals for organizing a two-level system of banks and a mechanism for transforming banks into joint stock (share) commercial banks.

6. The apparatus of the boards of the Russian republic banks of the USSR Industrial Construction Bank; the USSR Bank for Housing, Municipal Services, and Social Development; and the USSR Agro-industrial Bank is to be abolished before 1 August 1990.

Before being transformed into commercial banks the specialized banks are to operate temporarily under the leadership of the RSFSR State Bank.

7. The commission of the Soviet of the Republic of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet for the budget, plans, taxes, and prices; the RSFSR Council of Ministers; and the RSFSR Gosbank are to submit for the consideration of the next RSFSR Congress of People's Deputies draft laws "On the RSFSR State Bank" and "On Banks and Banking Activity in the RSFSR."

8. The present decree goes into effect the moment it is adopted.

[Signed] Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet B.N. Yeltsin.

Western Republics

Moldavian Supreme Soviet Bans Rallies, Referenda

LD0208161290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By IZVESTIYA correspondent Kondratyev from Kishinev]

[Text] The main subject at the sitting of the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium has been the development of measures capable of defusing the sociopolitical situation in the republic, which remains tense. Thus, the highest bodies of republican authority intend to defuse such a heated atmosphere.

First, up to the end of 1990, it has been decided to officially ban all rallies, processions, demonstrations, referenda and other events in built-up areas and at enterprises and establishments, which could negatively affect the sociopolitical situation. Second, if such things do occur, then the presidium members have decided unanimously that all initiators and organizers of a seditious rally, gathering, or referendum must immediately bear liability as laid down by the law.

Complex Situation Persists in Moldavia

LD0208181990 Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT 2 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Akeksandr Takiy]

[Text] Kishinev August 2 TASS—A decree adopted by the Presidium of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet today states that despite measures taken by government bodies, the socio-political situation in Moldavia remains complex.

Inter-ethnic tensions persist, there are gross violations of public order, and crime rate is high.

The decree notes that councils of people's deputies in the cities of Tiraspol, Bendery, Rybnitsa and adjoining rural districts are mainly responsible for the destabilisation of the situation.

The law making the Moldavian language the official language is being ignored on these territories inhabited by about one-fifth of the Moldavian population. New symbols of the republic have been ignored for three months.

During referendums in cities and villages in the Dniester reaches the majority of the population favoured creating an autonomous region in the Dniester Reaches.

The Presidium of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet assessed this desire as separatism, seeking to annull the jurisdiction of the Moldavian parliament on these districts.

The situation in South Moldavia remains tense. Leaders of the Gagauz National Movement have not agreed with

the decision by the Moldavian Supreme Soviet to deny autonomy to this Turkic-speaking people, which numbers 153 thousand and lives in close-knit communities.

Meetings in support of the preparation of elections to legislative bodies of an autonomous republic proclaimed by an extraordinary congress of the Gagauz people were held here after the question of autonomy was debated in parliament.

The decree by the Presidium of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet published by the press does not directly mention acts of vandalism in regard to monuments and symbols associated with the history of the area's joining Russia and the Soviet Union. Neither does the decree mention a new flare-up of extremism among picketers at the building of the Supreme Soviet the day before the first session ended. Nor does the decree include the recent statement by President of Parliament Mircha Snegov over national television that the second congress of the Moldavian Popular Front held recently has not helped to stabilise the socio-political situation in Moldavia.

The decree does not mention the growing gap between the positions of consistent supporters of the Moldavian Popular Front, on the one hand, and the Communist Party on the other.

It is noted that recent events are occurring against the background of the republic's deteriorating economic situation. Moldavia's national income dropped by 75 per cent in the first six months of the year. Extremely unfavourable weather conditions this year have had a negative effect on the agro-industrial area.

Belorussian Government Program Provisions Viewed

PM0208143590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Matukovskiy from Minsk under general heading "Direct Line": "The Belorussian Government Program; The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR) Supreme Soviet Has Ratified the Program of the Government for Its Term of Office"]

[Text] Minsk—At the focus of the program is the Declaration on State Sovereighty in its concrete manifestations. The Council of Ministers has presented a comprehensive plan of organizational and practical measures for implementing the concept of economic sovereignty and for the transition to a market economy. Provision is made, in particular, for completing in the immediate future, in August, the preparation of a draft agreement with the USSR concerning ownership, the use of natural resources, environmental protection, tax and credit policy, prices policy, and the possibility of transferring certain functions on a treaty basis to the center. The drawing up of draft treaties between Belorussian and Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and all other republics has begun. These treaties embrace all spheres of mutually advantageous cooperation for 1991 and the long term.

The program emphasizes that the market is not an end in itself. It is a question of creating the mechanisms for enhancing the efficiency of the national economy and for the stable growth of the people's well-being.

One of the chief specific steps of the government will be the decentralization of ownership, the de-statization of the economy, and the establishment of support in every way for entrepreneurship.

So far 560 construction projects with a total value of about 1 billion rubles have been halted and mothballed. The government deems it expedient to sell (and in a number of instances, to resell) them to interested parties for the creation, on their basis, of small private people-oriented enterprises, including ones in which foreign capital will play a part. These enterprises will primarily specialize in the service sphere, public catering, the food and light industries, and consumer goods. In these same sectors buyouts of functioning enterprises—small ones, as a rule—by collectives and by individual citizens are possible.

The government intends to halt the construction of many production facilities and channel the resources and capacities so released into the fulfillment of the Chernobyl program...

Belorussian science will receive energetic support from the government. All the conditions will be created for the development of basic research both in the sphere of natural sciences and also the humanities.

Ukrainian Moves on Military Service Viewed

PM0208142190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Aug 90 First Edition p 1

[Report by Colonel A. Polyakov under the "Direct Line" rubric: "In National Barracks?"]

[Text] Kiev—The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has adopted a resolution on compulsory military service by the republic's citizens and the use of law enforcement organ personnel outside the boundaries of the republic. It proposes that the Ukrainian Council of Ministers adopt measures to return to the republic within a month law enforcement organ personnel who are participating in preventing national conflicts in Union republics. It has been decided to return all servicemen on compulsory service to the republic's territory by 1 December of this year, and servicemen in the internal troops who are in areas of tension, by 1 January 1991. The Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers has been instructed to draw up the necessary documents by 15 September so that the draftees in the fall draft can carry out their military service in the Ukraine, and to report on this at the next Supreme Soviet session.

As Kiev Military District headquarters believes, the troop units deployed in the Ukraine are able to take approximately 25 percent of the servicemen drafted in the republic. At the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session,

Ukrainian SSR People's Deputy Colonel General B. Dukhov persistently proposed that there be less haste and that this very important document be discussed again in the permanent commissions. He was supported by 224 deputies, but the Presidium considered this to be insufficient.

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has sent a statement to the country's president and the USSR Supreme Soviet, which speaks of the inadmissibility of using Ukrainian SSR citizens in national conflicts. This document has been sent to the supreme soviets of other republics.

Ukrainian Soviet Approves Agricultural Law

LD0208202890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] A session of the Ukrainian Republic Supreme Soviet today passed a law giving priority to the development of the countryside and the republic's agro-industrial complex. This law provides for resolving the most acute questions of agriculture and the life of the countryside.

Also submitted for examination by the session was a draft decision in connection with dismantling the Lenin monument in Chervonograd following an unlawful decision by its town soviet. In this connection, numerous protests and requests from the town have been reaching the Supreme Soviet. However, the deputies from the districts who organized the dismantling of the monument gave an assurance that it was not a matter of destroying but only of transferring it to another spot. In doing so, they also referred to alleged demands of the entire population. However, a decision on this matter was blocked by deputies of the opposition People's Soviet by the lack of a quorum.

Ukrainian Party Chief Discusses Politburo

90UN2462A Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 28 Jun 90 pp 1, 2

[Report on interview with S.I. Gurenko, Politburo member and first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee, by unidentified UKRINFORM correspondent; place and date not given: "Justifying the Confidence of the Communists"—first two paragraphs are newspaper's introduction]

[Text] **As was already reported, Stanislav Ivanovich Gurenko was elected a member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee at the 28th congress of the republic Communist Party. He was born in 1936 and is a Ukrainian. But by tradition his name, like those of many other leaders, was for a long time mentioned mainly with the terse phrase "participated..." We have all really come to know him in recent years. Stanislav Ivanovich communicates well with people and responds willingly to requests from editors of newspaper, radio, and television to give interviews. His answers to questions are candid and the arguments he gives are convincing. His civic position is principled. S.I. Gurenko participated directly in cleaning up after the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. And it is certainly no accident that when he ran on a competitive basis in the Ivankovskiy electoral district in Kiev Oblast he was elected a Ukrainian SSR people's deputy from there.**

Today, at the request of a UKRINFORM correspondent, the first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine discusses his comrades in the Central Committee Politburo, the new members of which were elected at the Plenum of the Central Committee held right after the completion of the first stage of the 28th congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

[Gurenko] Several people who are members of the Politburo and communists and a wide range of nonparty members are well known: They have worked here previously.

There is hardly any need for a detailed introduction of Vladimir Antonovich Ivashko, who has worked as first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee and was recently elected chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet. He is a person with authority. Judging from the results of polls conducted among congress delegates, apparently, he is the person with the most authority in the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

Vitaliy Andreyevich Masol, who was in charge of the republic government in 1987, is also a person who is fairly well known in the republic.

Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk was elected second secretary of the Central Committee. The economist was a teacher of political economics, a candidate of economic sciences, and a Ukrainian SSR people's deputy. He has been in party work since 1960. He began as a methodological consultant for the House of Political Education of the Chernovtsy Obkom [oblast party committee]. He passed through all the steps on the ladder, as they say. He combines consistency, political purposefulness, and adherence to principles with mental flexibility and the ability to listen to and understand his opponent. He knows history well. He is doing a good deal to update ideological work. His credo is analysis and convincing argumentation. He enters into political discussion boldly and competently and defends his viewpoint with good argumentation. Our political opponents, incidentally, are also aware of these merits of his.

The secretary of the Central Committee, Ivan Grigoryevich Grintsov, comes from a kolkhoz [collective farm] family. He has worked as an agronomist, a kolkhoz chairman, agricultural administration chief, first secretary of the Rayon Party Committee in Donetsk Oblast, and first secretary of the Sumy Oblast Party Committee. In all areas he has shown his best side. I.G. Grintsov has worked for little more than a year as secretary of the Central Committee and, understandably, he has not yet realized all of his intentions. At the plenum, Central

Committee members A.S. Myakota, V.A. Shevchenko, P.Ye. Lyubarets, V.A. Ivashko, and others recommended him as an honest, decent, and kind person, a principled communist, and an intelligent, skilled, and businesslike leader. They gave concrete examples of how much I.G. Grintsov has done in his day for the development of Velikonovoselskiy Rayon in Donetsk Oblast and for increasing vegetable growing in the Sumy area. They noted his ability to work, his systematic approach to problems, and his sense of the new. Ivan Grigoryevich is a USSR people's deputy.

[PRAVDA UKRAINY] There are also new names among the secretaries...

[Gurenko] Anatoliy Petrovich Savchenko, secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee, is 53. He is a doctor of economic sciences and a corresponding member of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences. He has worked in the ore and coal industry, he has been in scientific work, and from 1975 to the present he has been in party work. Recently he was in charge of the socioeconomic division of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine. He is a Ukrainian SSR people's deputy. He is a person with a practical turn of mind and action, and is unaffected and accessible to people. His interests in the working person come before everything else. At the plenum he expressed his civil and political guidelines like this: to achieve economic sovereignty and to defend the interests of the republic in everything, and at the same time to tell people honestly and openly that we are essentially already living under the conditions of a market, there is no way to get away from it, and we must create the appropriate mechanism for getting out of the crisis situation. "If we want a qualified person to handle economic problems," Ye.V. Mironov said of him at the plenum, "I simply cannot see any other person."

Before his election as secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee, Valentin Yevgenyevich Ostorozhinskiy worked as first secretary of the Ternopol Party Obkom and chairman of the Ternopol Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies. Before that he was engaged in party work in Zhitomir. He was born in 1935 and has a higher education—he completed the Kiev State University and the Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee. He is a candidate of philosophical sciences. He has a strong character, he is able to find points of contact with people, and he loves to work. He is one of those party leaders who in a situation of sharp confrontation has skillfully organized work and found ways of constructive cooperation of healthy forces, ensuring the influence of communists in the local soviets.

[PRAVDA UKRAINY] Stanislav Ivanovich, is the election to the Politburo of representatives of the working class, the peasantry, science, and the armed forces a sign of the times or a persistent need?

[Gurenko] I would say that it is a necessity dictated by the times and the demands of perestroyka. Pay attention to the unprecedentedly broad professional and scientific range of our Politburo: from the academician to the worker and kolkhoz worker. We count a great deal on their knowledge and experience. For the Politburo is recognized as the brain center for the development of party policy. Scientific approaches and an in-depth analysis of socioeconomic process are needed in order to determine the correct reference points in it. One must be well aware of how people are living, what they are striving for, and what difficulties they are encountering. And the word of the workers, peasants, and scholars should carry a great deal of weight in the Politburo. I think the authority of the party political leadership still only stands to gain from such broad representation. We are convinced that the activity of the Politburo will come closer to life, and the interests and aspirations of the broad masses of the population will be taken into account more completely in it.

This detail is also important. Communists directly representing the local party organizations have been elected to the Politburo for the first time. We see in this a concrete manifestation of the course toward expansion of the participation of the party masses in the development of the party policy.

The troop commander of the Krasnoznamenny Kiev military district, Lieutenant General Boris Vsevolodovich Gromov, is perhaps one of the best-known individuals in the Armed Forces. A year ago he, a 45-year-old commander, was the last to cross the bridge across the Amu Darya from the Afghan side onto native soil. Many probably recall the pictures on television: Lt. Gen. B.V. Gromov embraces his eldest son on the bridge. The general's life has not been easy. But he has undergone his trials with honor and dignity. And is it not worthy of respect that he did not send our troops in but took them out, being concerned about the life of each fighting man. He is a Hero of the Soviet Union and a USSR people's deputy. And he has plenty to worry about now. The main thing for Boris Vsevolodovich now, in his own words, is to love his family and value the things that have been given by nature.

Petr Mikhyalovich Kozachenko is the leader of a comprehensive brigade of the Kiev Bolshevik scientific production association. He is 40 and was born and grew up in Kiev in a family of grain growers. He has been at the enterprise for almost two decades. He went through the worker university here and has mastered several occupations. Petr Mikhaylovich is the secretary of the shop party organization and a member of the association party committee. He is a principled and purposeful person. Delegates to the Kiev city party conference became well aware of this. I think he will be the same way in the Politburo. At the plenum P.M. Kozachenko summarized his political position like this: "I am for the party, for unity, and for the interests of the working class. For I have been in it for 20 years, I know its troubles and problems, and I know how the workers live and what

they expect from the Politburo and the new members of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee." He stated that he regards his election to the Politburo as a vote of confidence not only in him personally but also in all the workers and the broadest party masses, and as evidence of the democratization of the party and its movement closer to the people and their aspirations and hopes.

A tunneler of the mining administration imeni N.P. Barakov of the Krasnodonsk Production Association for coal mining, Petr Yefimovich Kuknerik was born in Volyn in 1943. He has been in the ranks of the CPSU since 1978. He has been a member of the Krasnodonsk Party Gorkom for 10 years now. He has service in the army and work at a Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] construction project under his belt. But most of his working life has been involved with mining. He has traveled the path from a common driller to a brigade leader. In the collective Petr Yefimovich sets an example in all respects. He is hard-working and has an excellent mastery of technical equipment. He is an order winner and a full holder of the badge of "Mining Glory" as well as a winner of the prize of Soviet trade unions imeni Aleksey Stakhanov and an honored miner of the USSR. The brigade headed by P.Ye. Kuknerik includes 35 people who represent many nationalities. The collective is friendly and advanced. Petr Yefimovich was elected as a congress delegate on a competitive basis out of three people. He won in the first round. At the plenum he stated that he is well aware of his immense amount of responsibility for affairs in the Donbass and the republic. He received full support from his comrades in the Central Committee.

The 48-year-old vice president of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, Valentin Pavlovich Kukhar, is well known beyond scientific circles. He is a doctor of chemical sciences, professor, academician of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, and chairman of the bureau of the social council under the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for the Protection of Nature. Valeriy Pavlovich is a winner of the state prize imeni A.I. Kiprianov and a confirmed advocate of a durable link between science and production, in which he sees an important guarantee of acceleration on the basis of scientific and technical progress. He is a person of broad erudition and firm principles. Members of the Kiev Gorkom on which he works have repeatedly been convinced of the clarity of his political position.

The peasants of the Soviet Ukraine in the Politburo of the Central Committee are represented by Nikolay Petrovich Sobchuk, chairman of the kolkhoz imeni 40 let Oktyabrya in Vasilkovskiy Rayon, Kiev Olbast. He was born in 1950, has a higher education, and is an agronomist. He is a winner of the Ukrainian SSR State Prize. He thinks that the critical food problems can be resolved if we approach the development of agriculture creatively. For several years now his kolkhoz has had close times with domestic scientific institutions and three foreign firms. Hence the results. Last year, for example, the yield of grain crops on the farm, including buckwheat and millet, amounted to 70 quintals per hectare, winter wheat—82 quintals, and corn—more than 100 quintals. This year's prospects are also good. The chairman is convinced that the Ukraine is capable of feeding itself and selling many products to other republics. According to the reactions of his comrades, N.P. Sobchuk is creative in his work. A thinking person and a progressive one, he has practical experience in the application of the most advanced technologies, including computerization of agricultural production.

I do not think I have forgotten anyone.

[PRAVDA UKRAINY] Except yourself.

[Gurenko] After graduating from the Kiev Polytechnical Institute I began my labor activity at the Donetsk machine-building plant imeni 15-letiye LKSM Ukrainy. Here I traveled the path from an engineer-technologist to director of the enterprise. In 1976 I was elected secretary of the Donetsk Obkom; in March 1980, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; and in March 1987, secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee. I do not know what happens next.

[PRAVDA UKRAINY] Stanislav Ivanovich, you were elected USSR people's deputy from the Zaporozhskiy-Shevchenkovskiy territorial district of Zaporozhye Oblast and Ukrainian SSR people's deputy from the Ivankovskiy eletoral district in Kiev Olbast. This was probably not easy.

[Gurenko] Quite right. But I am not looking for an easy life. Ecology problems are very crucial in both districts. The fate of Polesye [woodlands] disturbs us especially. As we know, this region suffered a great deal from the catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. And the fact that in competitive elections people preferred me means that they have confidence in the party Central Committee, and at the same time this involves a high level of responsibility. I will do everything possible so as not to shake their confidence but to strengthen it or, rather, to help the people.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the majority in the Central Committee are new people. There is no doubt that they will bring fresh approaches to our work and enrich it with new knowledge. Actually, this could be felt during the course of the congress: Each delegate came to it with his own concerns and aspirations and firmly defended his position. Even the first conversations after the plenum inspire the hope for friendly, smooth work of the Central Committee and its Politburo. We will try to justify the confidence of the communists.

Ukrainian Republican Party Chairman Interviewed

90UN2462B Riga SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH in Russian 28 Jun 90 p 2

[Report on interview with Levko Lukyanenko, chairman of the Ukrainian Republic Party, by APN correspondent Igor Zaseda in Kiev; date not given: "Ukrainian Republican Party Members and Their Goals"]

[Text] The chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party, created in April of this year, 63-year-old Levko Lukyanenko, studied at the Law Department of Moscow State University at the same time as the future general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR, M. Gorbachev. But then his destiny took a sharp turn—in 1961 the young lawyer was sentenced to 15 years in prison for anti-Soviet activity. He was released the year the Final Act was signed in Helsinki and immediately became involved in the work of the informal group for observance of the commitments signed by the USSR. In an interview with an APN correspondent, he, a deputy of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet, says:

[Lukyanenko] There was one very interesting article in the Helsinki document which was concerned with the requirement for bringing the countries' domestic legislation into line with international norms. In our declaration we announced that we intend to keep track of cases of human rights violations in the Ukraine. We made our addresses and telephone numbers public so that the authorities could not accuse us of underground activity.

[Zaseda] At the same time this was either an act of despair or temerity...

[Lukyanenko] We were tolerated until 1977. Then the arrests began and they took me as well. But other people came to replace us, and they were soon sent to the camps as well. In 1987 they began to put participants of our group in prison. The activity of the Helsinki Union was resumed. We began to publish journals and run our articles. We wrote a program for the union. The main idea was to step up the struggle for expansion of rights in the Ukraine within in the framework of the Soviet federation.

[Zaseda] But as one can see from the program declaration of the Ukrainian Republican Party, you are now raising the question of withdrawing from the USSR.

[Lukyanenko] Actually, we have always striven for the autonomy and independence of the Ukraine. But we could not actually declare this openly before the second half of last year, before the constituent congress of Rukh—the national movement of the Ukraine for perestroyka. Now we have entered on the path of agitation and propaganda for withdrawal from the USSR. This is a result of the fact that Rukh actually approved the position of the Helsinki Union.

[Zaseda] What do you mean by withdrawal form the USSR? The Lithuania experience shows that to break of relations with the Union means to cut to the quick. And do the Ukrainian people support you? Incidentally, how many members are there in your party?

[Lukyanenko] About 2,500 now. Concerning the Lithuanian experience, one should say that is not the fault of the republic parliament: It did not declare the blockade. But if they declare a blockade against the Ukraine it will not be so bad. We buy oil and gas from Russia, but it needs our metals, grain, and sugar just as much as we need that. I am an advocate of "surgical" intervention in order to break the chains that bind us to the central ministries and departments. On the other hand I do not think that a declaration of independence means breaking economic relations—it is above all an abrupt removal of the economy from the jurisdiction of the center. Our parliament could adopt laws for that.

[Zaseda] What political schools are close to your party?

[Lukyanenko] From the standpoint of political science it is difficult to squeeze our party into any ideological framework. We cannot ignore the fact that the consciousness of the Soviet people is under the influence of the ideas of theoretical socialism. We are not against nationalization of the means of production; we are for coexistence of various forms of ownership. A large number of members of the Republican Party are believers, but still one could hardly call us clerics. The main thing for us, for the party, is to expand our influence among the people. Our goal is to fight for the freedom of the Ukraine, for democracy and the acceleration of perestroyka, and for withdrawal from the USSR and the creation of an independent republic.

[Zaseda] How is your party formed organizationally?

[Lukyanenko] We do not have party cards. A recommendation from one party member is enough to enter the party. The monthly dues are three rubles. We have oblast and rayon organizations.

[Zaseda] And, finally, the last question. You have spent many years behind barbed wires because of your convictions. Do you not have any thirst for revenge?

[Lukyanenko] No. For centuries people have been guided by the principle of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth; respond to evil with evil. We must break this tradition. Good must triumph. We must not take revenge against communists but forgive them. We mut condemn the system and its methods but not take revenge against the people..

This is the conversation I had with Levko Lukyanenko, who was among the candidates for the post of chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR. He is an opponent of the socialist option, and millions of citizens of the republic disagree with him. But the appearance of the Ukrainian Republican Party is evidence of active changes on the political map of the Ukrainian SSR.

Lvov Plans To Experiment With Municipal Militia

PM0208135590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 31 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] For the first time in the country a municipal militia has been set up in Lvov as an experiment. It will include a patrol and point-duty service, a motor vehicle inspectorate, a divisional inspectors' service, a visas and registration department, a passport department, and a sanitation and ecological service. [video shows control panel] The municipal militia will not be subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. All the services will start operating as of January 1991.

Caucasus

Coverage of Reaction to Presidential Arms Decree

Armenia, Azerbaijan Respond

LD0208160690 Moscow TASS in English 1536 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—According to various estimates, armed units in Armenia, not envisaged by Soviet legislation, unite from 40 to 140 thousand people, MOSCOW NEWS reported today. It commented on the attitude in Trancaucasia to the decree of the USSR president prohibiting the creation of armed units that are not envisaged by USSR legislation and confiscating illegal arms.

"The purpose of the decree is to catch us unawares and prevent the adoption of a decision suspending the operation of the USSR Constitution in the Armenian territory," said Grant Khachatryan, chairman of the parliamentary commission for controlling the situation in Armenia.

The Armenian parliament is discussing the possible suspension of the presidential decree in the republic's territory in order to normalise the situation in Armenia with republican forces.

Vartan Vartanyan, deputy commander-in-chief of Ana, the biggest armed unit in Armenia, said that "The army is prepared to heed only a multiparty, democratically elected leadership. The presidential decree is a declaration of war on Armenia. The army will not heed it and will not surrender arms."

"Our stand is unambiguous. There is a need to disarm," said Vladimir Markaryants, chairman of the republican council of ministers. "The idea of protection against external enemies has long ceased to be valid. Veritable bandit units have formed and create a destabilising factor in the republic. In contradiction to the presidential decree, they continue to seize arms, hostages, and vehicles and to plunder peaceful people. Everything in Armenia is entangled and not a single service functions normally. Disarmament is the only way."

The newspaper writes that in Azerbaijan the decree extended hope to many people for an early normalisation of the situation. But others fear that the confiscation of arms might drag out indefinitely, which increases apathy and fear.

Azerbaijanian Communist President Ayaz Mutalibov, member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijanian Communist Party Central Committee, believes that the full confiscation of arms on both sides is an indispensable condition for the transition to a political settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"If Armenia continues to maintain an army, any negotiations with it will be viewed in Azerbaijan as a concession prompted by fear. The Azerbaijanian people will lose confidence in the government. A peaceful implementation of the presidential decree would open a way to the long-awaited peace in the region," Mutalibov said.

In an interview with MOSCOW NEWS Soviet Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin, said that in order to carry out disarmament without the use of emergency measures he intended to ask the president to extend the 15-day period which expires on August 9.

Armenian Supreme Soviet Views

LD0208162390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] To begin the bulletin, a report from our correspondent Khutoryan in Armenia.

At today's morning session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, General Surkov, head of the Yerevan Garrison Political Department, stated that a group of up to 60 armed civilians has seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from a military unit. It has also been reported that Soviet Army sub-units have moved into areas adjacent to Yerevan and taken up key positions on the highways. On the orders of (Gen. Pishchev), Yerevan's military commandant, a Soviet Army sub-unit has surrounded the premises of the republican DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy] committee in the town of Abovyan and arrested its leadership, and is now confiscating the arms and combat training equipment belonging to that committee.

The session adopted a statement categorically requesting that those involved in the arms seizure return the arms and ammunition to the Soviet Army within 48 hours. After the expiration of that period, the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the State Security Committee of the republic will be instructed to find the culprits and hand them over to be tried by law. At the same time, the military authorities are being urged to refrain from any steps in this direction.

Armenia Ready for Talks

LD0208172690 Moscow TASS in English 1233 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Yerevan August 2 (ARMENPRESS-TASS)—The Armenian parliament decided to suspend the presidential decree banning the formation of armed groups that are not envisaged by the USSR legislation and seizing weapons in the event of their unlawful possession on the republic's territory.

In a resolution adopted at its first session, the Armenian Supreme Soviet stated its readiness to begin talks on the suspension with the Soviet president. It was decided to bring this resolution to the knowledge of the USSR president and the parliaments of the Union republics.

Nominating candidates for the chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet and adopting a declaration on the republic's sovereignty are high on the agenda of the parliamentary session.

Armenian Supreme Soviet Debates Agenda, Issues

NC0308095990 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0600 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Aware of the need for the election of the leading bodies of the Armenian Supreme Soviet and cognizant of the urgent political and economic (?problems) facing the republic, the deputies ardently debated the agenda of the Armenian Supreme Soviet during its 1 and 2 August sessions.

What is more important: the election of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, or a decision on the political status of the republic; the endorsement of the economic autonomy concept, or the state of affairs in the earthquake zone; the refugee problems or the continuing seizure of arms in the republic, or the increase in lawlessness? These were all essential questions facing the newly formed Supreme Soviet.

The vital interests of the people require the normalization of life in the republic. Various views were expressed in this regard.

At the request of the deputies, parliamentary commissions were set up to deal with the agenda of the session and to draw up a document on the political status of the republic.

Yes, under the present complex conditions it is not easy to isolate the more important issues from the less important. They are all links in the same chain, one connected with the other. Therefore, understanding must be shown towards the deputies, who, while establishing the agenda of the session, continued for some time to advance proposals on this or that topic.

Finally a nine-point agenda was endorsed. A number of remaining issues concerning the disaster zone, refugees, creation of a press center and other matters were referred to the commission preparing the agenda. That is, the agenda of the session has still to be completed.

The following issues were included in the agenda for debate:

1. Election of the chairman of Armenian republic's Supreme Soviet.
2. Declaration on the political status of Armenia.
3. Election of the first deputy chairman of the Armenian republic's Supreme Soviet.
4. Election of the deputy chairman of the Armenian republic's Supreme Soviet.
5. Election of the standing commissions of the Armenian republic's Supreme Soviet.
6. Draft resolution on the Armenian republic's economic autonomy concept.
7. Appointment of a chairman of the Armenian republic's Council of Ministers.
8. Revision of some aspects of the Armenian republic's Constitution.
9. Course of the implementation of the 3 May 1990 resolution of the Armenian republic's Supreme Soviet concerning the creation of a defense council attached to the Armenian republic's Supreme Soviet.

An attack on an army unit in the early hours of 2 August brought the deputies face to face with a new problem at the morning session of the Supreme Soviet. The question was how to act in a situation in which a considerable quantity of combat weapons has been seized from an army unit, and which also poses a grave danger to the security of the population. Major General Surkov gave a briefing on this issue and appealed to the Supreme Soviet for its active assistance.

Again a new plot. By whom? How can we find out who the culprits are, retrieve the weapons, and prevent the soldiers from taking countermeasures?

The session continues today [3 August].

[Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian in its review of KHORHRDAYIN HAYASTAN at 0500 GMT on 3 August quotes a report in the paper as saying that the Armenian Supreme Soviet "will pass a resolution on Armenia's political status today or tomorrow."]

'Terrorists' Attack Army Subunit in Yerevan

LD0208194490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a report from the USSR Ministry of Defense. A group of some 50 armed terrorists carried out an assault at 0400 today on an army subunit in a Yerevan rayon. Under cover of darkness, they left their vehicles near a military settlement and attacked the orderly, Junior Sergeant Simonyan, causing him bodily injuries. Having received an alarm signal, a patrol from a neighboring subunit opened fire. By that time, however, the raiders had entered the storehouse

and had stolen 165 manpack portable flame-throwers, 102 charges for them, and 675 signal flare rockets. After the patrol opened fire, the terrorists escaped. Measures are being taken to find the criminals.

Considering the special situation that has arisen in the republic, a decision has been made to issue all servicemen with personal weapons. Officers and warrant officers have been returned to barracks [na kazarmennoye polozheniye]. This was reported by Major General Surkov, USSR people's deputy, at a session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

Capture of 'Flame-Throwers' Noted

LD0208181790 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 2 TASS—The IZVESTIYA newspaper reports here today that head of the Yerevan Garrison Political Department Mikhail Surkov told the session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet that a munitions depot was attacked last night and many flame-throwers were captured.

General Surkov said that army units begin the "ring" operation to return stolen weapons.

The newspaper notes that the Armenian parliament decided to immediately set up a special parliamentary commission to investigate into the circumstances of this event and to make urgent proposals to the session to normalise the situation and to return the flame-throwers.

29 Jul Armenian Repeat Election Results Viewed

NC0208145190 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0600 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Statement issued by the central electoral commission supervising the elections of people's deputies of the Armenian republic; date not given]

[Text] After analyzing the records obtained from the okrug commissions on the results of the repeat elections for people's deputies of the Armenian Republic held on 29 July in a number of electoral okrugs, the central electoral commission states the following:

In accordance with Article 52 of the law on the election of people's deputies of the Armenian Republic, repeat elections were organized in 21 okrugs on 29 July.

Elections were recognized as having taken place in 15 okrugs. People's deputies were elected in 14 okrugs. An election was recognized as having taken place in Yerevan's [name indistinct] okrug No. 59, but no deputy was elected.

Elections were not recognized as having taken place in Yerevan city's Papazyan okrug No. 31, Nersisyan No. 37, Bakunts No. 72, and Naregatsu No. 85. The election was considered invalid in Yekhegnadzorskiy rayon's [name indistinct] okrug No. 186 where the election laws were violated.

The Alaverdi city's [name indistinct] okrug No. 115 electoral commission has violated the deadline set by the central electoral commission and has not sent in the election results.

1 Aug Session of Armenian Supreme Soviet Viewed

NC0208151790 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1850 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Speaking at the morning session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet on 1 August, Amiryan, presiding chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, said that the republican central electoral commission has registered eight more deputies on the basis of the repeat elections held on 15 and 29 July, adding that the registration process is continuing.

A letter from Vasilyev, USSR acting procurator general, was read out at the session. The letter was addressed to the Armenian Supreme Soviet and asked the Supreme Soviet's consent to the bringing of criminal charges against republican People's Deputy Arkadiy Manucharov. The deputies received the request with indignation, considering it to be an illegal move against a people's deputy and another link in the chain of the illegalities committed by the central administrative organs. It was decided to set up a parliamentary commission to [words indistinct] draw up a draft resolution on this matter.

Deputy Torosyan, speaking for the secretariat of the session, provided some clarifications as regards the meetings of the deputies with the voters, procedures for processing their appeals and complaints, parliamentary ethics, and other issues.

Deputies Shahmuradyan, (?Lori) Movsisyan, Ishkhanyan, Abgaryan, Galoyan, and others expressed their concern and made proposals regarding [the proposals for] the alteration of the state emblems of the republic, the developments in Armenian language orthography and terminology, the creation of conditions conducive to productive work on the part of the deputies, the setting up of a press center, and other issues.

The Supreme Soviet passed a decision on the 25 July 1990 decree of the USSR president on prohibiting the creation of armed formations not provided for by USSR legislation and removing weapons where they are illegally held. With its decision, the Supreme Soviet suspended the implementation of the president's decision in our republic and Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast], and placed the resolution of this matter under its jurisdiction. The Armenian Supreme Soviet also stated its readiness to conduct negotiations with the country's president on this problem.

[Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian in its review of KHORHRDAYIN HAYASTAN at 0500 GMT on 2 August reports that the session was also briefed on the crash of YAK-40 aircraft belonging to the Armenian

Civil Aviation Department which was flying the Yerevan-Stepanakert route. It was decided to set up a commission to investigate the accident.]

Reportage on Armenian Paramilitary Groups

PM0208114690 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Second Edition p 4

["Reportage From the Transcaucasus" by special correspondents Captain Second Rank O. Odnokolenko and V. Smolyakov: "People and Weapons. Fedayin, Extremists, and Others"]

[Text] In Yerevan we were told that we were at least a month or a month and a half late. In late May and early June armed people were strolling around in public without making any attempt to conceal themselves. And this was the case not only in the capital of the republic but in all Armenian cities and settlements.

The situation is now a little calmer, at least on the surface. Armed people in paramilitary uniform can maybe be seen outside the headquarters of various formations or in camouflaged vehicles. As a rule they have no license plates, but their movements are not obstructed because GAI [State Automobile Inspectorate] workers are nowhere to be seen in Yerevan. People say that after fedayin strafed, blew up, and burned down several GAI posts, Automobile Inspectorate workers will no longer risk carrying out their duties. In some places (along the road to Zvartnots Airport, for example) GAI post buildings are being guarded by subunits of internal troops.

...Guerrillas, extremists, bearded thugs, fedayin... Just who are these people who have taken up arms? According to Armenian MVD [Ministry of Internal Afairs] data, several armed formations numbering around 10,000 people in total are currently active on the republic's territory. The biggest formation is the Armenian National Army (ANA), which has approaching 5,000 men. Second in terms of size and influence is reckoned to be the Armenian Pannational Movement (AOD) military formation. It has been officially registered. Many figures active in the movement are deputies in the new Armenian parliament. A formation known as "Nart"—the Republican Party Independent Army—has around 700 men. Next in the league table comes the "MUSH" national alliance, which unites a number of heterogeneous groupings beneath its banners. "David of Sasun," "Vretaruner" ("Avengers"), "Aydat" ("Armenians' Tribunal"), the "Neutral Detachments," and a number of other armed groups have a degree of independence. A so-called "Military Council" was created in May this year with a view to coordinating joint actions, and it is attempting to exert an influence on all the armed formations located on the republic's territory.

By prior agreement, at 1900 hours local time we presented ourselves at ANA headquarters, which is located virtually in the center of the republic capital. The windows of the two-story building are sandbagged. There are cars and trucks around. Some are fitted with radios. In the actual headquarters some semblance of military order is maintained. There is a sentry and a guard by the entrance. A man in an officer's field uniform with stars on his shoulder boards greeted us with a salute. Another, in a flak jacket, was armed with an automatic weapon and had an F-1 grenade attached to a fuze around his neck.

Paron V. Vardanyan (Mr. Vardam Vardanyan), chairman of the ANA Military Council, worked for more than two decades as a journalist and then an art expert and spent 15 years writing a book entitled "Armenian Carpets." In terms of his registered military speciality he is a captain of ground forces. "This is precisely what is most needed right now!" Paron Vardanyan stressed.

The thoughts he expressed on the nature of Armenian-Azerbaijani enmity were most categorical. He went on for ages about his people's thousand-year history and their special role. Here he stressed that he does not know a single Armenian who has bad feelings about the Russians. He assured us that rage fills the Armenian soul only when Armenians are confronted by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

The biggest complaints are against the center, which allegedly allowed and even encouraged the bloody events in Sumgait. "Two and a half years of war," Vardanyan says, "brought us to the conclusion that Armenians have to be born with a gun in their hand." It has not been proved historically, he claims, that Armenians and Azerbaijanis can become brothers. He does not believe in God, counts himself an atheist, and says: "I have a formula: The Armenian people will live forever if the nation becomes an army and the nation's religion is not some invented god but the nation itself." Admittedly he did then explain that by the term "nation-army" he means a people's militia.

In the future the chairman of the ANA Military Council is not averse to becoming president of a "sovereign Armenia," which is to be transformed beyond all recognition in two years with the help of the mighty diaspora. He believes that today's "fedayin" are the "basis" on which this prosperous country will be built. He links many of his plans with the creation of a scientific institute of the gene pool of the Armenoid race.

As was said, ANA and AOD detachments often collaborate during combat operations, but the ANA leaders have no mutual understanding with the AOD leaders because the latter actively engage in politics. Vardanyan believes that there is no point in engaging in politics when you have armed detachments. If the ANA is brought up to the requisite condition, it will become an influential political force itself. But the ANA already has entire regiments. According to our interlocutor's assurances, everyone who dodged the spring draft this year is now basically serving in ANA subunits.

Here is another detail in the "portrait" of the ANA. It has not only its own staffs, weapons dumps, and training

centers, but even tribunals. Asked: "Do you have the death penalty in your army?" V. Vardanyan replied as follows: "We do not have the death penalty. But we have thought up a worse punishment. We give offenders a few grenades and send them into Azerbaijan's territory..."

It is said that this penalty has never yet used. But when the chairman of the ANA Military Council told us about it, a barely perceptible smile played about his lips.

The next day we were promised an opportunity to visit an ANA camp. But in the evening the USSR president's decree "On Prohibiting the Creation of Armed Formations Not Envisaged by USSR Legislation and Confiscating Weapons in the Event of Their Illegal Storage" was broadcast on the radio. Vardan Vardanyan apologized to us and said that now it was impossible to go to the camp. Now he was preoccupied with another problem: how he could utilize the republic's parliament to secure official status for his formation. All it was left for us to do was to express the hope to Paron Vardan that his men will at least be more careful with grenades in places where there are people around. It has to be noted that this advice is by no means idle. According to statistics, in two and one-half years around 100 people have been killed in the ANA. And only 20 of them were killed during the period of combat operations on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border; the rest were killed while preparing and testing explosive devices. However, the figures of the republic's MVD are more depressing: Since the beginning of the year alone 10 citizens have been killed and 65 wounded on Armenian territory as a result of the mutual bombardments on the border (138 such bombardments have been recorded). There are just as many bombardments, as the USSR and Azerbaijan SSR MVD's testify, from the Armenian side, which also has grave consequences. But what particularly worries the staffers of Armenia's law enforcement organs is the increase in crime (according to USSR MVD figures, an increase in crime is being observed in all the Union republics except Azerbaijan). Cases of daring crimes being committed with firearms have become more frequent. So far this year, something like 150 of these crimes have been recorded. As a result 50 people were killed and 146 wounded.

On the very day we were to meet with leaders of the "MUSH" national union, there was a showdown in the Artashat region, involving the use of weapons, between two groupings, one of which has already claimed 13 victims, so the cab driver was reluctant to take us for any money. Later he agreed, but on the way he told us that some criminals, calling themselves members of national formations, go in for highway robbery, and hijackings of state motor transport have recently become more frequent. (The other day TRUD's own correspondent lost his official car.) But as it turned out, our driver was well prepared for any eventuality. Near the end, he showed us a Beretta pistol cunningly concealed in his clothing.

At "MUSH" headquarters, they were not brandishing weapons. The organization's 59-year-old leader Laert Sagatelyan said at once: "We are not gangsters, we do not steal from anyone, we took up arms because we do'not trust the authorities to protect us. The troops and militia are always too late." They assured us that the recent events on this sector of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border were no different. The bombardment, they said, began from the territory of Nakhichevan, and the "MUSH" detachments returned fire and took the fighting onto their neighbors' territory. Only then did the soldiers appear...

Feliks (who described himself as section commander in one of the "MUSH" combat detachments) tells his story:

"I have been at the front line for two years now because of this chaos in the country. I am not afraid to die. After one battle, they counted 72 bullet holes in the barrier behind which I was lying. But I know I am not waging war on the Azerbaijani people. The Azerbaijani people have nothing to do with it. The mafia is to blame for everything, for dragging the peoples into war."

Yura (who was introduced as a detachment commander, but himself categorically refused to confirm this) tells his story:

"We are all tired of this life—two years under arms, two years of sleepless nights. Our children are used to weapons from their earliest years—can that be right?! But I think the president's decree on surrendering weapons is wrong, it is too late, and it will lead to war. They should have thought about it earlier, and not allowed the people to take up arms. Now I will not surrender my weapon to anyone. They can come and get it, but they'll have to kill me first. Otherwise, forget it!"

This view is shared by the commanders of other formations with whom we had meetings. One, for instance, stated that he even has "surface-to-surface" and "surface-to-air" missiles at his disposal, but he does not intend to disarm voluntarily.

Unfortunately the local press is in no hurry to explain the USSR president's decree, while the central newspapers are subject to considerable holdups even in reaching Yerevan. As for the so-called informal newspapers, they have rather original views.

...In the evening of the day that the USSR president's decree was published, the silence outside the garrison hotel was shattered by a short burst of gunfire. We went out onto the balcony, which was heaped with sandbags and draped with a camouflage net. The city, by now accustomed to everything in life, was going back to sleep.

Azerbaijan Plan To Expand Economic Cooperation

LD0208171690 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0202 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] It has been reported in the republican press that Azerbaijan allegedly has not so far begun talks about regulating cooperation with other republics, and especially with the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist

Republic. The AZERINFORM correspondent referred to the press center of the republican Council of Ministers and asked the center to give information on how correct the reports are.

It was reported at the press center that in connection with the transition to market relations, Azerbaijan is one of the initiators in the field of creating new economic relations with other republics. A special resolution of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic was issued in June this year. In connection with improving the results of economic relations among republics, this resolution indicates that special government commissions should be set up for holding preliminary talks with Union republics and for preparing inter-republican draft agreements on economic, scientific and technical, and cultural cooperation. These commissions were confirmed at the session of the presidium of the republican Council of Ministers in July and they have started to work. The four commissions which were set up will maintain relations with all republics.

International cooperation will also have a [word indistinct] effect on the development of our economy. For this reason it is now necessary to think about entering foreign markets. It must be pointed out that Azerbaijan is also among the first in this field. Representatives of competent circles of foreign countries who are interested in setting up relations with the republic will convene two months hence at the first international congress in Baku. Such global, economic, and businesslike measures of international importance have not yet been implemented anywhere in the Union.

Georgia's Railroad Blockade Outcomes Discussed

'Huge' Losses Caused

PM0308101390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Report by A. Kozhukhova and A. Arbuzov from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Reporter] [Video shows interior of control center, wall chart, other charts, computer equipment] Usually at 1800 hours the people at the country's automated rail traffic control center are totting up the results of their work. Currently they are totting up the losses. And this at the height of the summer harvest. The material damage is huge. The situation on the Transcaucasus Railroad has now sharply deteriorated—passenger and local trains have been brought to a halt. [Video shows V.S. Zakharenko, deputy chief of the Ministry of Railways main administration, standing in front of giant wall chart]

[Zakharenko] Well, one or two trains are still running. We sent them via the Azerbaijan Railroad. These are the Tbilisi-Moscow-Tbilisi train (number 13) and the [words indistinct] train. Unfortunately, passengers are not reaching their destinations. Our traffic is paralyzed on the stretch between Beyuk-Kyasik through Tbilisi Junction to Veseloye, as is traffic from Tbilisi to Masis. Armenia is entirely cut off on one side. Armenia's only contact with the outside world is via Norashen to Azerbaijan, and then through Gudermes and Mineralnyye Vody to Tuapse. At present, 166 freight trains are standing idle without locomotives for this reason—8,000 railcars. Some 20,000 railcars have been left high and dry in two sectors—the Tbilisi sector and the Samtredia sector. And more than 5,000 railcars are approaching the area. Normal traffic cannot get through to the North Caucasus Railroad or to the Azerbaijan Railroad via Beyuk-Kyasik. We have laid off 32,500 people. We have now been forced to appeal to the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply to sell the freight currently contained in these cars in the region of the North Caucasus and [video shows computer display of rail network] Azerbaijan Railroads, the Tbilisi and Samtredia sectors, and on the approaches to them. These are highly important goods—coal, ore, grain, food, gasoline—and the state will have to bear these losses in hard currency. [Video shows giant wall chart, control room] In order to avoid losses in rolling stock—which we need so badly for the national economy—we have been forced to institute an agreement. That is, shipments of all kinds of freight have been entirely halted in the Samtredia and Tbilisi sectors. The damage has not been finally calculated yet, but it runs into hundreds of thousands of rubles.

Leader Assails Blockade

LD0208214590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Interview with Georgia Supreme Soviet Chairman Gumbaridze from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] I would like to ask you on behalf of the "Vremya" program to comment upon the events that have recently taken place in Samtredia.

[Gumbaridze] It is good that the "Vremya" program has at last become interested in the opinion of the republic on the subject. For I believe that in such circumstances information must not be one-sided, so as to avoid any alterations or even distortions in the coverage of real events, and the causes and consquences of various events. First, not only the the republic but also the country knows that at the initiative of the presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet, the dates of the elections were moved in order to make sure that they really take place on a multiparty and democratic basis. Therefore, no one had any grounds to resort to any sort of political actions to achieve this, and all the more so considering that the presidium has been carrying out intensive legislative work involving concerned public organizations and political movements to work out appropriate legislative acts.

This process was interrupted. It was interrupted without any warning or grounds. It was interrupted by the action on the railroad. I believe that such methods of political

pressure are absolutely unacceptable, especially when there are no real grounds for it.

The timing of the session was determined by progress in drafting the bills. The public was informed about this by the press and television. It was also announced that, as outlined in the rules and legislative activity, appropriate bills, including alternative variants, would be published in the press. So, there was no point whatever in demanding a session of the publication of materials. These issues were defined and resolved, and the public was informed about this. So, I believe that it is absolutely impermissible, when trying to attain democracy and a multiparty system, to insist only upon the priority of one's own opinion or on the variant of the draft law which this or that side finds most acceptable. This is very far from democracy, and this is very far from the multiparty system. As to the action itself, I believe that it has caused enormous damage to the republic, it has caused damage to its economy to the value of many millions of rubles.

For several days, communications links were broken both inside and outside of the republic. The population of Georgia has been affected. People were affected who intended to go on holiday and whose personal plans depended on the railroad. The whole country has been affected. I must say that we, the government and the leadership of the republic, have done all we could to normalize the situation and to prevent any further destabilization. People in the republic have supported us in this cause. We tried to use political methods to the full to resolve the problem, and that is what we have done.

The session will be held at the time set. All alternative versions of the bills have been published. And a normal and calm situation is required to hold the session. I think that the word of law will be applied in connection with this case of gross disruption of the operation of the railroad.

Press Conference Held

PM0208132990 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by D. Babich: "Will the Train Not Travel Any Further?"]

[Text] One hundred thousand passengers cannot go by train to Caucasian resorts.

A press conference was held at the USSR Ministry of Railways, where V. Ginko, deputy minister of railways, spoke to journalists about the situation on the Transcaucasus Railroad, which has been blocked for six days and nights by pickets from the Helsinki Alliance of Georgia who are demanding that a Georgian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet session be convened to adopt a new law on elections in the republic. The session is scheduled for 17 August, but the pickets are demanding that it be opened 10 days earlier. A total of 18,000 passengers and around half a million tonnes of freight are stuck at intermediate stations. The people have eaten almost all the food in the restaurant cars and the railroad workers have to appeal to the local village and city soviets for food. Admittedly, most of the passengers have already managed to leave by automobile, motor-launch, or airplane. According to V. Ginko, 100,000 people were forced to postpone their trips to Transcaucasus resorts because of the disruptions in the republic train timetable.

The Ministry of Railways Collegium adopted a decision to stop loading all trains going to Georgia except trains transporting food.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA question: "The pickets are demanding that only trains going to other republics be stopped, not those going to Georgia. Will the situation not be exacerbated by the Ministry of Railways' decision to detain the 'Georgian' ones and cut off the last remaining path for the pickets?"

[Ginko] "The railroad is not a wide highway with many lanes of traffic. We cannot stop a train going to Armenia, for instance, and let the ones going to Georgia go past. The situation will only be resolved when the groups of pickets leave the Samtredia junction.

Georgia Soviet Hears Draft Election Laws

LD0208153390 Moscow World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Soviet Chronicle" feature of the "Soviet Union Day by Day" program; report attributed to INTERFAX]

[Text] At the sitting of the commissions of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, three draft laws on elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet have been presented for discussion. The differences between them largely consist in who have the right to take part in the elections as voters and candidates for deputies. According to the first, official, draft law, citizens residing in the Georgian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] who are 18 years old by the date of the election can vote. Those who are 23 years old can be elected, irrespective of origin, social and property status, race or national affiliation, sex, education, or creed.

In another draft there is an addition: Only citizens of Georgia can take part in the elections. In the alternative draft drawn up by representatives of informal roundtable organizations, the 18 and 23 years age stipulations are retained and restrictions are introduced. The right to vote is enjoyed by all citizens of Georgia who have lived in the republic for no less than five years by the date of the elections. Citizens who have resided here over the last ten years and speak Georgian may be elected.

The representatives of the roundtable propose that people who have served in military or militarized associations which do not come under the jurisdiction of

Georgia should not have the right to take part in elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet. In their opinion, the right to be nominated as a candidate for deputy of Georgia's Supreme Soviet should be enjoyed by political organizations whose activity is widespread throughout the territory of Georgia. They are obliged to respect the national and state sovereignty of Georgia, the principles of democracy, and the idea of national accord, it states in the alternative draft law. It envisages banning the setting up of parties whose aim is to work change by violence against Georgia's constitutional system, violation of its territorial integrity, and the unleashing of national and religious differences.

Central Asia

Reportage on Updated Osh Oblast Situation

Enterprises Now 'Operating'

LD0208131490 Moscow World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 90

[From the "Soviet Chronicle" feature of the "Soviet Union Day by Day" program; report attributed to INTERFAX]

[Text] Yesterday, a report was received that, during the previous 24 hours, the situation in Kirghizia's Osh Oblast has not become more complicated. In the town of Osh all enterprises and domestic services, communications, shopping, and public catering establishments were operating. At the same time, (Mirakhmedov), leader of the Adalat [justice] informal society, was arrested for 30 days for violating the law on the law-based state of emergency regime.

In Uzgen a meeting was held, during which the issue of housing construction and other premises were discussed. At the same time, notes the INTERFAX correspondent, mutual relations between the Uzbeks and the Kirghiz in Uzgenskiy rayon are as tense as ever. Several conflicts were prevented by the forces of law and order during the day. The situation in Uzgen is under control.

In the past 24 hours, 153 people have been detained in Osh Oblast for violating the curfew, 12 of whom have been subjected to administrative arrest.

Situation 'Improving Daily'

LD0208153190 Frunze Domestic Service in Kirghiz 1200 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] The situation in the oblast is improving daily. In connection with this and taking numerous requests of labor collectives, a resolution was adopted on lifting the curfew in the town of Sulyukta and Toktogul Rayon. The operation of the curfew has been reduced in 13 villages of the town of Tashkomur. Entrance examinations have started in Osh and Dzhalalbad town. Public order has been strengthened in the area where the students taking the entrance exam are living. According to the report by the staff directorate of the oblast, 100 percent of consumer services, communications, public health, trade, and public catering turned up for work. And also 96.5 percent of construction workers and 92.6 percent of industrial work forces are working.

During the past 24 hours, 45 crimes were registered including two cases of bodily injuries, 21 thefts, and eight transport accidents. Since the beginning of the mass disturbance the number of injured, hospitalization, and deaths have not changed. Eighty-nine persons are being sought, and two announcement have come in today. In the past 24 hours, 12 firearms, and 10 petrol bombs were confiscated in the oblast; 3,265 residents have been checked, and 190 of them have been convicted of violating passport regulations; 185 people were detained for violating the curfew, of them 14 were subjected to administrative arrest, and 95 were fined and the rest of them were cautioned.

Kazakh Potato Farmers' Problems Described

PM0208134390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Report by V. Glukhovtsev from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The harvest and the preservation of the crop is possibly one of the main subjects of news reports now. According to specialists, a sizable harvest has indeed been cultivated. However, owing both to the unpreparedness of the harvest's machine base and the acute shortage of spare parts and fuel, the grain crop may be expected to fall drastically. Here are a few details. The Neva and Kolos combines have proved unable to harvest tall grain crops and their productivity is extremely low. In this situation the government is seeking all means of buying grain abroad. However, after coming up against nonpayment of debts and bills totaling $100 million, U.S. suppliers have decided to stop shipments. In order to find the requisite funds the country has been forced to sell gold and diamonds. Nevertheless the government is seeking every opportunity to preserve the harvest—the trip by the country's prime minister, Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov to Saratov Oblast is connected with this. You will see a detailed report in our coming news reports. In addition, this year the land has proved generous and there is a very large vegetable harvest. Here is a report from our correspondent in Kazakhstan from the Alma-Ata kolkhoz [collective farm].

[Glukhovtsev] [video shows fruit and vegetable store] Shortages of early potatoes have almost been seen as the norm in Alma-Ata for a long time now. This summer there is an abundance of early potatoes in literally every vegetable store or simply on the streets—at most pleasing prices. They are two or three times cheaper than on the black market. The problem of supplying townspeople is being resolved here [video shows harvesting work under way] at specialized irrigated plantations run by a number of local farms which have been opened up

around the Kapchagayskoye reservoir. Some 750 hectares of arable land are quite enough to provide the city of 1 million inhabitants. Vyacheslav Kim's team has 150 hectares under early potatoes. Each provides over 10 tonnes on average of graded potatoes of, so to speak, the highest quality. The team will send Alma-Ata 1,500 tonnes of tubers this summer. All work is carried out by mechanized means, there is not very much manual work at all. All the same I cannot fail to mention the fact that these outmoded combines allow many losses. Otherwise the potato farmers would have an even bigger final harvest. The kolkhoz workers also have other problems.

How many potatoes does the team send to the city every day?

[V. Kim, teamleader] To date up to 80 tonnes per day.

[Glukhovtsev] What is your capacity?

[Kim] Up to 150 tonnes per day.

[Glukhovtsev] Aleksandr Yegorevich, why are shipments held back?

[A.Ye. Kuznetsov, chairman of the Alma-Ata kolkhoz] Our trading organizations in the city of Alma-Ata are not pulling their weight; they are failing to meet their contract obligations as regards taking delivery of the potatoes.

[Glukhovtsev] People need potatoes—and that is the main thing. But the problem of relations between producers, procurement workers, and trading personnel is an age-old one. Everyone pursues their own ends and tries to reap the benefit for themselves. But for the first time the Alma-Ata Oblast agro-industrial complex has been able to ensure that the main problem of providing townspeople with early potatoes is resolved successfully. I think that intradepartmental problems will also be resolved in a timely fashion. This will only serve the common good, and ensure that all stores always contain the things that we have here on these shelves [video shows store full of fruit and vegetables].

Azat Citizens Movement Founded in Kazakhstan

90US1217A Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Jul 90 p 1

[Report by O. Kvyatkovskiy: "'Azat' Means Rebirth"]

[Text] **The citizens movement of Kazakhstan, "Azat," has been created at a constituent conference in Alma-Ata.**

It was emphasized in a number of speeches that under the conditions of the establishment of a multiparty system, "Azat" should become the basis for the consolidation of citizens of Kazakhstan, regardless of their social positions or party affiliations. At the same time there was a heated discussion of a wide range of issues from suggestions for unconditional priority in employment of Kazakhstan residents on "their own territory" to the adoption of a republic law on citizenship and restoration of the legal rights of people deported in the past to return to their homeland, from problems of the ecology of the Aral area and regions adjacent to the territory of the Semipalatinsk testing grounds to the rendering of aid to Kazakhs who wish to return to the republic from other regions of the country.

The first congress of the "Azat" citizens movement of Kazakhstan should take place in three or four months.

Russian-Speaking Population Leaving Tajikistan

LD0208182690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] A conference was held in the Tajik Communist Party Central Commmittee, at which Kakhar Makhkamov, member of the CPSU Central Committee politburo, first secretary of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee, and chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet, made a speech devoted to problems of the migration of the Russian-speaking population.

Following the well-known February events in Dushanbe, over 23,000 people—Russian, Ukrainians, Tatars, Uzbeks, and Armenians—have left the republic. Tajiks are also among those leaving. The migrants are mainly qualified specialists. Enterprises, institutes, and medical estblishments are being depleted. If radical measures are not taken, according to preliminary calculations 80,000 people will have quit Tajikistan before the end of the year.

People, it was stated at the conference, are demanding guarantees that the February events will not be repeated. Shentsev, the Tajik deputy minister of internal affairs, said that the republican internal affairs bodies are giving such a guarantee. The participants in the conference at the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee concluded that there is a need to expose and strictly punish the main culprits of the tragic events, and to carry out a systematic policy of mass work among the population.

Uzbekistan To Implement Gorbachev's Arms Ban

LD0208192290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] has adopted a decision aimed at implementing the USSR president's decre banning setting up armed units not stipulated under USSR legislation and on confiscating arms in illegal possession. The decision notes there has recently been a growing number of instances of theft of weapons and ammunition in the republic. This year already 3,685 items of various kinds of weapons and a large quantity of ammunition have been confiscated or voluntarily handed in. A plan for immediate measures to implement the decree of the USSR president was confirmed.